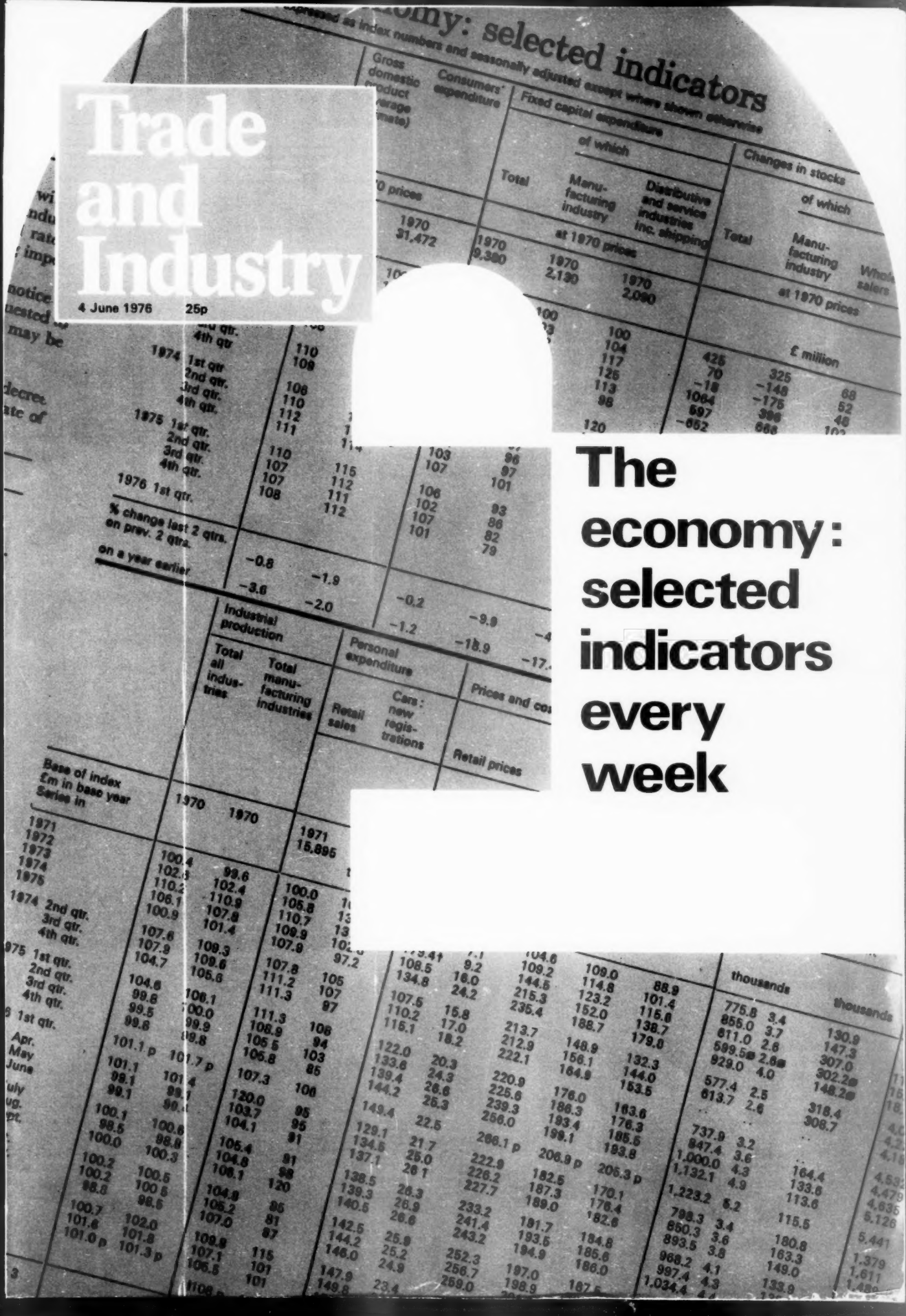
Trade and Industry
4 June 1976 25p
economy: selected indicators
expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise
Gross domestic product (average estimate)
Consumers' expenditure
Fixed capital expenditure
Total
of which
Manu-facturing industry
Distributive and service industries inc. shipping
Changes in stocks
Total
of which
Manu-facturing industry
Whole salers
at 1970 prices
£ million
Industrial production
Total all indus-tries
Total manu-facturing industries
Personal expenditure
Retail sales
Cars: new regis-trations
Prices and cos
Retail prices
Base of index £m in base year Series in
1970
1971
15,895
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.
on a year earlier
thousands
The economy: selected indicators every week

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	Dep.	Arr.	Arr.	Arr.	Arr.	Arr.
MON	**1000**	**1825**		**2135**		
	*2045		TUES 0515		TUES 0805	TUES 0935
TUES	**1000**		**1835**			**2210**
	*2045	WED 0505		WED 0800		
WED	*1000	1825			2135	2305
THURS	**1000**		**1835**			**2210**
FRI	**1000**	**1825**		**2135**		
	*2045		SAT 0515		SAT 0805	SAT 0935
SAT	**1000**			**1955**		**2145**
	*2045	SUN 0505		SUN 0800		
SUN	*1000		1835		2140	2325

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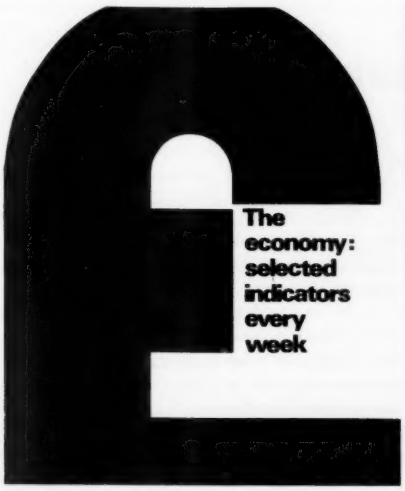
Trade and Industry

4 June 1976

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection



In every issue of *Trade and Industry* a page of selected indicators gives an 'at-a-glance' check on the country's economy (this weeks' figures are on page 625). And every month five pages of tables give valuable information on the economies of EEC member states, with those of the USA and Japan for comparison – see page 607.

Trade and Industry

Incorporating the Board of Trade Journal

Volume 23. No. 10.

Pages 581 to 636. 4 June 1976.

Price 25p. Net subscription post inclusive, £18.72

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Subscriptions: HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1. 01-928 6977 ext. 472

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Home News

Metrication Bill will go ahead says Consumer Minister

Consumers will be given all the help possible in adapting to metrication, John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said on Thursday, 27 May.

Pursuant to replies to Parliamentary questions from Nigel Spearing, (Newham South) and Nicholas Winterton, (Macclesfield) (*Official Report*, 17 May 1976, Vol. 911 Col. 380 and 24 May 1976, Vol. 912 Cols. 18-19) Mr. Fraser said:

'When the Government delayed the second reading of the Weights and Measures Etc. Bill it indicated that further consultations would take place about the Bill. The great preponderance of representations from organisations representing consumers has been in favour of proceeding with the Bill. The Government has received similar representations from both sides of industry and from educationalists. Members of Parliament who had reservations about the Bill were concerned almost exclusively with safeguards and the pace of change to a metric system in relation to consumer transactions.

Changes

'The Bill which was introduced into the House earlier this year already contained considerable consumer protection safeguards. The Government has since considered a number of amendments further to assist the consumer during completion of the metric changeover. These amendments have now been incorporated in the Weights and Measures Etc. No. 2 Bill which, because of pressure of essential government business in the House of Commons was introduced in another place today. The changes made to the Bill amend the provisions relating to consultation which were incorporated in the original Bill; the Secretary of State will be required to consult in particular with organisations representative of consumer interests which it appears to her will be affected by any proposed Order to be made under clause 2 of the original Bill. A second provision allows the continued use of imperial units of measurement for explanatory purposes, alongside metric units, even though those imperial units may no longer be used as legal measures for trade. A further new provision gives power to require the display of conversion tables and such other transitional and incidental provisions as are necessary to safeguard consumer transactions.

'When the new Bill becomes law the Government does not intend to proceed with any short, sharp completion of the metric changeover. In exercising the powers in clause 2 of the original Bill the Government intends to give priority to those areas where the greatest degree of consumer confusion could result from the presence in shops of dual ranges of metric and imperial packs; to those areas where ranges of prescribed quantities are being laid down for the first time and to other areas where there are distinct practical advantages in early adoption of the use of metric units. If consultation is to be meaningful, and the views of the House are to be taken fully into account it would be quite wrong at this stage for the Government to attempt to lay down a rigid timetable for metrication. But its own view is that weighed-out foods, like meat, fish, fruit and vegetables should have the lowest priority for a changeover. Some sizes like the pint of milk or the pint of beer, can, in practice, remain in use indefinitely: the further consultations provided for by the Bill may reveal other examples.

Consumer protection

'The Government already has powers under the Prices Act which can be used to protect the consumer during any sectoral changeover and to unit price any goods.

'As a consequence of both the consultations and the changes incorporated in the new Bill, the Government will also seek amendment and clarification of the proposed EEC directive on the approximation of the laws in relation to Units of Measurement (R/3070/75). This draft directive mitigates the obligation contained in the Treaty of Accession that planned for the disappearance of imperial units by the end of 1979, and to that extent the Government welcomes it. But the Government proposes to seek amendments and clarification on the new draft directive to ensure that it goes no further than prohibiting the authorisation by statute of imperial measures; that it does not vitiate the customary use of certain measures which are not prescribed by law, eg the length of a cricket pitch; that it does not inhibit the power of the UK Government to make transitional provisions for the use of imperial units for explanatory purposes, such as the display of conversion charts; and that it does not affect the use of existing equipment nor the manufacture of spare parts for such equipment. The Government will also endeavour to defer the deadlines for phasing out certain units presently in use which are listed in the draft Directive. In the case of most units of measurement in common use the terms of the new draft directive would commit the Government to no more than a review of their continued use by the end of 1979.

'The Government intends to provide the House with an early opportunity to consider the proposed EEC Directive on the approximation of the laws in relation to Units of Measurement (R/3070/75) and hopes that the House will soon be able to debate the Weights and Measures Etc. No. 2 Bill.'

'Encouraging trend to single figure inflation rate'

John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, at the annual lunch of the Toilet Preparations Federation in London on Tuesday, 1 June, said that the declining trend in inflation was becoming more pronounced.

'The annual rate of inflation has now dropped for eight successive months,' he said 'and the April figure (18.9 per cent) is the lowest since November 1974. It is even more encouraging to look at the annualised six-monthly rate of the retail price index (less seasonal food). This fell from 34 per cent in the first six months of 1975 to 14 per cent in the second half of that year and is now running at 13½ per cent. With the Government having reached a new 4½ per cent pay agreement with the TUC to operate after next July, when the £6 policy expires, there is every reason to hope that the annual rate of inflation should continue on its downward path towards the single figure target.

'It is now widely acepted that if pay is to continue to be restrained then there must also be continuing control of prices. We have, therefore, continued strict price control enforced by the Price Commission under the Price Code and our programme of food sub-

sidies currently saving the average family of four about 68p per week on their domestic shopping bill and the average pensioner couple about 44p per week. As the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced on 5 May, price controls, related to costs and profits will be continued during the period of the new pay agreement with the unions, but the regime will be so modified as to encourage investment and jobs in our economy.'

Greenwell Dry Docks

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, has sent the following letter to Mr. H. Wilkinson, Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, Sunderland:

'Thank you for your letter of 17 May about the position of Greenwell Dry Docks. I recognise the concern expressed but the facts are not quite as you put them.

'The decision to close Greenwells was made by the management concerned. In view of the anxiety expressed I took the exceptional step of arranging for an independent report to be prepared by Touche Ross and when its findings strongly confirmed the management's judgement I concluded at that stage that there were no grounds for intervening in the decision to close Greenwells.

'I am of course very pleased that Bristol Channel Ship Repairers are now showing an interest in the yard. They have been given every co-operation in obtaining the information necessary to enable them to reach a decision and if they are willing to go ahead and can prepare a proposition acceptable to Sunderland Shipbuilders I have undertaken to give it urgent consideration. My officials have also asked Sunderland Shipbuilders to let them know of any proposals they receive from Bristol Channel Ship Repairers together with their own views. I believe a meeting is arranged between the two parties in the very near future, and I hope further progress can be made there.'

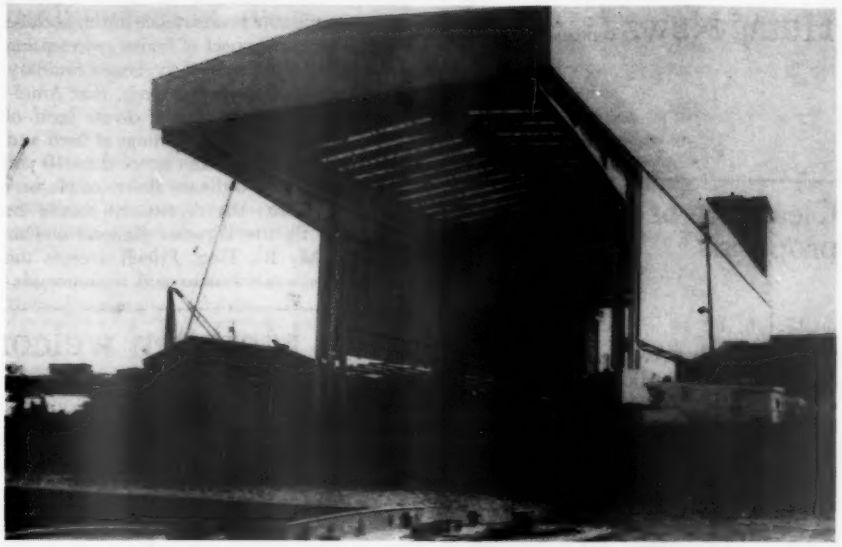
North East Coast Shiprepairers announced on 13 January 1976 closure of Greenwell. Mr. Varley appointed Touche Ross and Co. on 13 February to examine the viability of Greenwell. He then announced on 24 March that the Touche Ross report endorsed in unequivocal terms the decision of the NECS management to close Greenwell, and he could not feel that the Government would be justified in intervening in that decision.

The C. H. Bailey Group first expressed an interest in principle to Touche Ross on 11 March and have been in touch with Sunderland Shipbuilders, owners of assets leased to Greenwell, since 23 April.

Minister visits Canada

Michael Meacher, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Trade, arrived in Canada, Monday 31 May, on his first major overseas visit since taking office at the Department of Trade.

He returns to London on 10 June.



This new covered dock development built for Freight Express-Seacon Ltd., of Millwall, includes warehousing, offices, and lorry terminal providing a total 'dry' area for personnel, import and export goods, trucks and ships. Stretching 20m over the Thames, the covered terminal at Express Wharf gives weather protection to steel, bulk or general cargo and ships themselves, putting an end to cargo being damaged by rain and preventing ships from loading or discharging in bad weather. The covered terminal is the first stage of a scheme by Freight Express-Seacon which will eventually include a second transit shed, new warehouses and an office block.

Stanley Clinton Davis on insurance marketing methods

Insurance salesmen who pyschologically trick or bludgeon people into buying policies they do not want damage the reputation of the rest of the life insurance industry, said Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping on 27 May. Mr. Clinton Davis, who was speaking to the Birmingham Life Insurance Association said:

'There are still some sellers of insurance who attach greater importance to training in high-pressure sales techniques than to any knowledge of insurance as such. Their activities are writ large in some of the letters I receive from members of the public, from people who have been psychologically tricked or bludgeoned into buying policies they did not understand and did not really want. Such salesmen, for a short term gain, do much damage to the reputation of the rest of the life assurance industry.

'The Insurance Companies Act 1974 makes it an offence for anyone to induce, or attempt to induce, anyone else to enter into a contract of insurance with an insurance company by means of – I quote – 'any statement, promise or forecast which he knows to be misleading, false or deceptive, or by any dishonest concealment of material facts, or by the reckless making . . . of any statement, promise or forecast which is misleading, false or deceptive.

'This is an important safeguard to the potential policyholder; but for its effectiveness it does require that a statement complained of should be *proved* to be misleading, false or deceptive, and to be proved so to the satisfaction of a court of law; and this may not be an easy matter.

'Another section of the Act, therefore, gives me power to make regulations about the form and contents of insurance advertisements so as to control further the means by which insurance companies and their salesmen may attract custom from members of the public. We drew up proposals for regulations under this provision last year and circulated them widely for comment. But this is a difficult area to regulate, and clearly a lot more consultations will be necessary before we can bring the new regulations into force.

'The Act also provides for the regulation of intermediaries that are connected in specified ways – such as through shareholdings, directorships, or sole agencies – with the insurance company whose policies they are selling, or who sell the policies of companies not authorised in the United Kingdom. I have recently made regulations under this provision which will come into force on 11 October.

'From that date intermediaries, who sell here the policies of companies that are not authorised to do business in this country – and that are not therefore subject to my supervision – will have to notify prospective policyholders of this fact. Similarly intermediaries will have to notify prospective policyholders of any relevant connections between them and the company whose policies they are selling.

'The purpose of these regulations is to oblige those, who might seem to the public to be selling insurance as independent and impartial advisers, to disclose factors that could impair their independence or impartiality.'

Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has decided, on the information at present before her, not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973: Sun Life Assurance Society Ltd./Artagen Properties Ltd.; Lazard Bros. and Co. Ltd./ Slater, Walker (Jersey) Ltd.; International reinsurance interests of Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Ltd./Winterthur Swiss Insurance Co.; Prestcold Holdings Ltd. and Searle Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

Amalgamated Industrials and Herbert Morris: report by the Monopolies Commission

The existing 'partial' merger between Amalgamated Industrials and Herbert Morris and any full merger which could result from the proposed bid by Amalgamated Industrials for Herbert Morris would both be against the public interest. This is the conclusion reached by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in their report published last week as House of Commons Paper 434.

In a written reply to a question from Ted Fletcher, (Darlington), John Fraser, Minister of State at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, said:

'The Commission has concluded that a merger situation already exists between the companies by virtue of the purchase of certain shares in Herbert Morris Ltd. by Amalgamated Industrials Ltd. and that the bid for Herbert Morris proposed by Amalgamated Industrials also creates a contemplated merger situation under the Fair Trading Act. The Commission has also concluded that both merger situations are contrary to the public interest in that there is a serious risk that either will interfere adversely with the progress of Herbert Morris (including its contribution to the balance of payments), will cause serious friction in the relations with trade unions and employees and will make it more difficult for Herbert Morris to raise funds from banks and finance houses. The Commission are unable to recommend any action which would remedy or prevent these adverse effects and accordingly recommends that the contemplated merger situation should not be permitted and that the existing merger situation should not be allowed to continue. The Commission further recommends that Amalgamated Industrials and its associates should be required in the first instance not to exercise voting rights in respect of shares representing more than 10 per cent of the issued ordinary share capital of Herbert Morris, that Amalgamated Industrials should divest itself of shares so as to bring the holdings of itself and its associates down to not more than 10 per cent of the issued ordinary shares of Herbert Morris and that the divestment should be supervised by the Director General of Fair Trading. My Rt. Hon. Friend accepts the Commission's conclusions and recommendations and has asked the Director General of Fair Trading to consult with the companies about their implementation.'

The Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection referred the existing and proposed merger situations between Amalgamated Industrials and Herbert Morris to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission on 15 December 1975 for investigation and report. The Commission was given five months in which to report. A group of six members of the Commission investigated the case. Their report is a unanimous one.

John Methven welcomes sellers' code on shoes

More information about shoes and improved service to customers are the main aims of a code of practice introduced by the Footwear Distributors Federation. The code was welcomed by John Methven, Director General of Fair Trading, when it was announced on 26 May.

The 'Voluntary Code of Practice for Footwear' comes into operation on 1 August. Its main points cover fitting facilities for children, testing, labelling, quality control, advertising and pricing and staff training.

Under the code if a dispute arises between customer and retailer the customer will be able to send the shoes to a new Testing Centre at Kettering established by the FDF and administered by the Shoe and Allied Trades Research Association. Its Supervisory Board will be approved by OFT and will include trading standards, consumer and independent members. The Centre will provide the customer with a report of findings on shoes. A £2 charge will be made but this will be returnable if the report is in the consumer's favour. All retailer members of the FDF have agreed to be bound by the Centre's findings.

From 1 July 1977 footwear will be labelled to show if the main materials used in uppers and soles are leather or other materials. This will not apply where there is no possibility of confusion with leather – as with wellington boots, plimsolls etc.

Welcoming the code, John Methven said: 'Sections of the footwear industry have been widely criticised over the last few years for their attitude to customer compaints about faulty shoes. My Office has certainly been among the critics – the level of complaints made about shoes was one of the highest for any single item of goods in figures supplied to the OFT by Trading Standards Officers and Citizens Advice Bureaux in both 1974 and 1975. In 1975 out of a total of 406,845 complaints about goods and services nearly 22,000 were about footwear. I regard this figure as unacceptably high and I am therefore particularly pleased to see a positive step being taken by the industry to give its customers a better service. I look forward to seeing the level of complaints fall considerably when the code is effective.

'This is the last voluntary code of practice with which I shall be associated as Director General – this is in fact my last public engagement in my present post. I feel that the success of the negotiations between my Office and the FDF resulting in this code means that I leave on a high note and it gives me a considerable amount of personal satisfaction.'

The Footwear Distributors Federation includes in its membership the Multiple Shoe Retailers' Association, the National Shoe Retailers Council and the Wholesale Footwear Distributors' Association and between them they represent more than 6,500 shops and wholesalers. The code is also supported by the British Footwear Manufacturers Federation and the British Rubber Manufacturers Association.

This is the tenth code of practice negotiated so far by the Office of Fair Trading. Under the Fair Trading Act 1973, the Director General of Fair Trading has the duty to encourage trade associations to prepare and disseminate codes of practice to safeguard and promote the interests of consumers. The general principles behind a code are that as well as covering a large proportion of the market, it should deal satisfactorily with areas of concern to shoppers (for instance, fair compensation for faulty shoes); that it should promote clear and accurate displays of information to shoppers; that it should be well publicised both to shoppers and within the industry; that there should be provision for resolving complaints and for monitoring the performance of the code.

Trade in Latin America

In an article 'Bright outlook now for trade in Latin America', published in the 23 April issue of *Trade and Industry*, the figure for imports to Cuba from non-communist sources was quoted as 'around $1 million'. This should have read 'around $1 billion'.

Official appointments

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, has made the following appointments:

British Steel Corporation. David Waterhouse, managing director commercial at BSC's head office in London, to be a full-time member of the corporation for a period of five years from 1 June 1976. Ward Griffiths to be a part-time member of the corporation for a further period of one year from 1 June 1976.

Films Act 1960 section 6: Combination of quota periods

The Department of Trade, after consulting the Cinematograph Film Council and upon the application of the exhibitors listed below, has issued Directions that for the cinemas listed below the years 1976 and 1977 may be combined as a single quota period, provided that the foreign film 'Jaws' is exhibited for a continuous period of at least eight weeks and one day.

Name of cinema	Location
EMI	
ABC	Canterbury
ABC 1	Southampton
ABC	London Road, Reading
ABC 2	Reading
New Centre	Bristol
Victoria 1	Cambridge
ABC 1	Norwich
ABC	Colchester
ABC	Oxford
ABC 1	Bradford
ABC 1	Sheffield
ABC	Doncaster
ABC	New Street, Birmingham
ABC 1	Wolverhampton
ABC	Hanley
ABC	Coventry
ABC	Haymarket, Newcastle
ABC 1	Sunderland
ABC 1	Middlesbrough
ABC	Hull
ABC	Liverpool
ABC	Birkenhead
ABC	Warrington
ABC	Chester
ABC	Preston
Coliseum	Glasgow
ABC 1	Aberdeen
ABC	Dundee
ABC 1	Falkirk
ABC 1	Luton
ABC 1	Fulham Road, London, SW10
ABC 1	Bayswater, London, W2
ABC 2	Putney, London, SW15
ABC 1	Croydon
ABC 1	Romford
ABC 1	Staines
ABC 2	Ealing, London, W5
ABC	Southend
ABC 1	Leeds
Olympia	Cardiff
ABC	Newport
ABC	Cleethorpes
ABC	Bexley Heath
ABC	Bolton
ABC	Rochdale
ABC	Basingstoke
ABC	Newbury
Beau Nash	Bath
ABC	Mansfield
ABC	Aldershot
ABC	Horsham
ABC	Stourbridge
ABC	Kidderminster
ABC	South Shields
ABC	Oldham
ABC	Streatham
ABC	Woking
Regal	Uxbridge
ABC	Enfield
ABC	Kingston
ABC 3 (Bristol Road)	Birmingham
ABC (Tuebrook)	Liverpool
ABC 2	Sheffield
Capitol	St. Helens
SHIPMAN AND KING	
Embassy	Crawley
Ritz	Gosport
County	Hertford
Studio	Bletchley
CIC	
Plaza 1	Lower Regent Street, SW1
Plaza 2	Lower Regent Street, SW1

'A Century of Trade Marks' published

A history of the first hundred years of the Trade Marks Registry has been published by the Department of Trade (HMSO, price £2).

'A Century of Trade Marks' written by Ronald Moorby, Assistant Registrar of Trade Marks, and two members of his staff, Douglas Myall and Francis Ward Dyer, provides a layman's guide to the work of the Trade Marks Registry now in its centenary year, and shows how trade marks have become so important to our consumer society.

Early trade marks

The book traces the history of trade marks and argues that they existed as a device to denote the maker of an article. The oldest marks are probably those on pottery found in Transylvania and thought to be 7,000 years old. While these marks are not trade mark symbols as we would know them, it seems likely that primitive marks were used throughout the ancient civilisations of Egypt, Crete, Etruria and Greece. It is not until Ancient Rome, however, that we find true 'trade marks' and we can identify known pottery workshops.

Trade marks seem to have suffered with everything else during the Dark Ages but spread rapidly from the 12th-13th centuries onward.

Development of trade mark law

Statutory trade mark law, however, only dates from the 1875 Trade Marks Registration Act which established the Trade Marks Registry and recognised a property risk in a distinctive registered trade mark.

This 1875 Act was a beginning and although most of its underlying principles have remained valid, it was improved at intervals. A definition of a trade mark was not introduced until 1905, but is still in use today.

In its first year, 1876, when there was a pent-up demand 10,384 trade mark applications were filed at the London Office. Applications have increased during the intervening hundred years and reached a peak of 18,703 in 1972. The Register now contains some 250,000 live registrations.

Manchester and Sheffield

A separate chapter (chapter V) is devoted to the branch of the Trade Marks Registry in Manchester and to the history of trade marks in Sheffield. The Manchester branch was opened in October 1876 to handle applications for cotton textile marks.

The chapter goes on to describe the special position of the Cutlers' Company at Sheffield where trade marks for cutlery wares have been recorded since the incorporation of the Company in 1624.

The book concludes by discussing some of the problems concerning the Registry now, in particular the development of European trade marks on which discussions are already taking place.

ECGD statutory returns

This is the first return issued in a new format to give both information required under the Export Guarantees Act 1975 and other details of ECGD's operations including the make-up of liabilities under the statutory limit.

Commitments under the Export Guarantees Act 1975

1 During the quarter ending 30 September 1975 the aggregate amount of guarantees given amounted to:

a £871 million under Section 1
b £66 million under Section 2(1)
c £Nil under Section 5

Notes: These are the gross values of guarantees issued during the quarter and do not take account of previous liabilities which have now expired.

Total amounts recorded against ECGD's statutory limit

2 The total sums recorded against ECGD's statutory limit of £12,000 million set in Section 6(1) of the 1975 Act amounted on 30 September 1975 to £11,584 million.

3 This total is made up as follows:

a liabilities in respect of guarantees given under Section 1 £7,343 million.
b liabilities in repect of guarantees under Section 2(1) £2,716 million.
c amount of principal monies outstanding under Section 2(2) £ Nil.
d amount of principal monies outstanding under Section 3(1) £1,317 million.
e sums paid for securities acquired and for the time being held under Section 4 £208 million.
f liabilities in respect of arrangements made under Section 5 £Nil.

Notes: ECGD may sometimes incur liabilities in advance of guarantees being formally issued and thus some business may be included in 2 before being shown in 1.
Some guarantees given to banks are not included in the total liability figure (2 above) as they have already been accounted for in the liability under the related credit insurance guarantees, issued to exporters. However if guarantees to the banks are given under a different section of the Act from that of the basic guarantee, they are recorded in the separate liability figures (3a and 3b above) which are maintained for Section 1 and Section 2(1); in these circumstances the aggregate of (3a) to (f) will exceed the figure at 2.

Commitments under the Overseas Investment and Export Guarantees Act 1973

4 During the quarter ending 30 September 1975 the aggregate amount of liabilities assumed was £3.3 million.

Note: This is the gross value of liabilities assumed in the quarter and does not take account of previous liabilities which have now expired.

5 The total amount of liability on 30 September 1975 set against ECGD's statutory limit of £250 million set in Section 2(4) of the 1972 Act amounted to £30 million.

It is regretted that owing to processing difficulties publication of returns has had to be somewhat delayed.

Commitments under the Export Guarantees Act 1975

1 During the quarter ending 31 December 1975 the aggregate amount of guarantees given amounted to:

a £721 million under Section 1
b £224 million under Section 2(1)
c £Nil under Section 5

Note: These are the gross values of guarantees issued during the quarter and do not take account of previous liabilities which have now expired.

Total amounts recorded against ECGD's Statutory Limit

2 The total sums recorded against ECGD's statutory limit of £15,200 million set in Section 6(1) of the 1975 Act, as amended by the Export Guarantees (Limit on Commitments) Order 1975 No. 1854, amounted on 31 December 1975 to £12,106 million.

3 This total is made up as follows:

a liabilities in respect of guarantees given under Section 1 £7,493 million.
b liabilities in respect of guarantees under Section 2(1) £2,960 million.
c amount of principal monies outstanding under Section 2(2) £Nil.
d amount of principal monies outstanding under Section 3(1) £1,451 million.
e sums paid for securities acquired and for the time being held under Section 4 £202 million.
f liabilities in respect of arrangements made under Section 5 £Nil.

Notes: EGCD may sometimes incur liabilities in advance of guarantees being formally issued and thus some business may be included in 2 before being shown in 1.

Some guarantees given to banks are not included in the total liability figure (2 above) as they have already been accounted for in the liability under the related credit insurance guarantees, issued to exporters. However if guarantees to the banks are given under a different section of the Act from that of the basic guarantee, they are recorded in the separate liability figures (3a and 3b above) which are maintained for Section 1 and Section 2(1); in these circumstances the aggregate of 3(a) to (f) will exceed the figure at 2.

Commitments under the Overseas Investment and Export Guarantees Act 1972

4 During the quarter ending 31 December 1975 the aggregate amount of liabilities assumed was £2.8 million.

Note: This is the gross value of liabilities assumed in the quarter and does not take account of previous liabilities which have now expired.

5 The total amount of liability on 31 December 1975 set against ECGD's statutory limit of £250 million set in Section 2(4) of the 1972 Act amount to £32 million.

Consultative document on fifth licensing round terms

Between 50 and 60 blocks will be on offer during the next round of offshore petroleum production licensing later this year. The new round will follow consultations on the Government's proposals for licensing arrangements*, published on 27 May, and the laying of new regulations before Parliament.

Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, said in a written parliamentary answer, that the new round would be the start of a more orderly licensing strategy 'aimed at maintaining activity at a reasonably stable level in the future through the licensing of smaller amounts of territory at more frequent intervals.'

Mr. Benn was replying to Ian Campbell (West Dunbartonshire), who asked if the Secretary of State would make a statement about his proposals for the next round of offshore licensing.

Mr. Benn replied:

'I propose that between 50 and 60 blocks should be put on offer for the next round of offshore petroleum production licensing. This is to be the start of a more orderly licensing strategy, aimed at maintaining activity at a reasonably stable level in the future through the licensing of smaller amounts of territory at more frequent intervals. I have today placed in the Libraries a consultative document setting out the arrangements I propose for the round. Copies of the document are also available in the library of my department at Thames House South, Millbank, London, SW1P 4QJ.

'I am approaching the United Kingdom Offshore Operators Association, the Confederation of British Industry, and the trade unions to suggest consultations on the basis of the document. I hope to complete these consultations during June, and then to prepare Regulations, to be laid in due course before Parliament prior to inviting applications'.

Points from the consultative document

The consultative document says that in judging applications the Government will take account 'without discrimination between British and foreign companies of the record of companies in the voluntary participation negotiations and in offering full and fair opportunity to UK suppliers of equipment and services.'

Applicants will be expected to recognise the need for trade union access to employees on offshore installations.

The consultative document says that the British National Oil Corporation will be a 51 per cent partner in every licence.

It will be necessary for applicants who have been notified that their application is likely to be successful to settle a form of operating agreement with BNOC in advance of the issue of licences.

The Corporation will be liable for its share of expenditure except that related to development where it decides not to participate in a discovery. It will pay its share of expenditure, as it is incurred, on all exploration work carried out under the licence and on any appraisal work before it decides whether to participate in development.

In the event of BNOC deciding to participate in a discovery, the method under which it would pay its share of development expenditure will be a matter for the Corporation, although detailed arrangements for payment will be for negotiation between the Corporation and its co-licensees.

The document also sets out proposed guidelines on the relationship between BNOC and its co-licensees. The British National Oil Corporation:

is to be entitled to a 51 per cent share in all the benefits of the licences, including the petroleum where it decides to participate in development;

is to be entitled to a vote 'appropriate to its having a 51 per cent share' on any operating committee which is set up;

should not be able to decide questions in committees solely by the use of its majority vote, nor should holders of small percentages of the licences have a power of veto;

will be liable to contribute its share of expenditure in the licensed area, except when it decides not to participate in development.

The terms and conditions of licences would, in general, be those contained in the Petroleum and Submarine Pipelines Act 1975. The changes proposed are:

licences will be awarded for an initial period of four years, after which licensees would be required to surrender not less than one-third of the territory, and after a further three years a further one-third. Licensees may then opt to continue the licence for a further 30 years in respect of the remaining one-third of territory. This compares with the present requirement for at least one-half of the licence to be surrendered after six years followed by an op-

* 'UK Offshore Petroleum Licensing – Fifth Round. A Consultative Document'. Available from the Library, Department of Energy, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QJ.

tional further 40 years for the remaining half.

the basis for calculating royalty, presently set at the wellhead value, will be changed to the tax value, and the offsetting of rent against royalty is to be discontinued.

Further changes cover units of measurement for recording production; preservation of well samples; training requirements relating to offshore activities; and to landward licences and exploration licences.

The term of exploration licences is to be increased to six years from the present three years.

North Sea oil: effects on marine environment

The implications for the marine environment of oil discharges from North Sea operations are examined in a pollution paper* published by the Central Unit on Environmental Pollution, Department of the Environment.

According to the paper, North Sea oil is being brought ashore in increasingly large volumes which will make an essential contribution to United Kingdom energy supplies. There are, however, implications for the marine environment since operations on this scale cannot be conducted without the discharge of considerable quantities of oil-contaminated waters, even though much of the oil can be removed from the discharge by suitable treatment.

The paper considers the source and quantities of oil-contaminated waters which might be discharged, their dispersion and their effects in the sea and the performance of modern oil/water separation equipment and monitoring systems. It proposes guidelines for the levels of discharge that are practicably achievable from offshore installations and from onshore terminals.

The paper concludes that discharges from shore-based and offshore facilities should be strictly controlled and reduced as far as economic considerations permit to meet environmental requirements within the area of discharge. Consents to discharge should be considered on an individual basis and take account of environmental circumstances and sensitivity in the area.

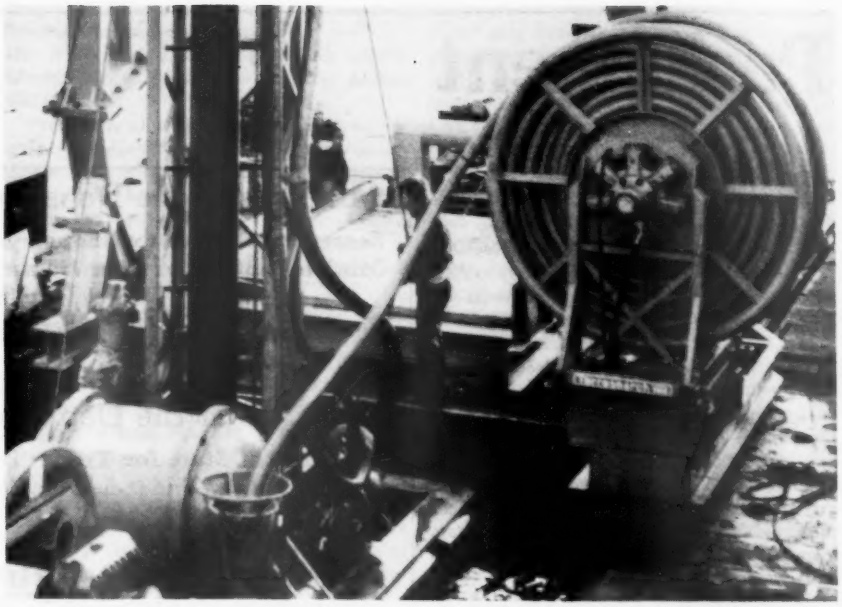
Consents should be reviewed if:

1 a new industrial development or increase in size of existing development, with subsequent discharge, occurs;
2 waste water treatment technology significantly improves;
3 new scientific information becomes available on the biological effects of discharges.

The need for more accurate information and further research is also underlined.

As the paper points out, the problem of oil-contaminated discharges into the sea from offshore platforms and from major onshore pipeline terminals is a new one in the United Kingdom. The paper, which is the first of its kind to explore the subject, is intended to provide a source of guidance to those dealing with discharge problems and to stimulate a better understanding of such problems, leading to a continuing improvement in technology to deal with them.

* The Separation of Oil from Water for North Sea Oil Operations – Pollution Paper No. 6. Available HM Stationery Office, price 65p.



Photograph shows an Imperial-Eastman hose bundle-mounted on the deck of a test rig during trials of Terresearch Ltd.'s new seabed sampler at Fort William. The drill and cassette are at the left of the photograph, and, as these are lowered to the seabed, the hose reel unwinds as required. Imperial-Eastman (UK) Ltd., St. Neots, Cambridgeshire, designs and manufacturing hose bundles – containing all electric/hydraulic control lines – in continuous lengths of up to 700m.

Oil-pollution exercise off the Humber

Humbersmash 76, an exercise held by the Department of Trade in conjunction with local authorities and other organisations, was due to take place off the mouth of the Humber on 3 June to test contingency arrangements for dealing with an oil spill in that area.

In the exercise oil was assumed to be leaking from a tanker which had been in a collision. The Department's oil pollution prevention organisation, including tugs from Hull equipped for spraying dispersant, were mobilised to deal with the 'oil' at sea.

Tugs from Boston and King's Lynn were also deployed to protect the area of The Wash from pollution. The operation was controlled from the Department of Trade Marine Survey Office at Hull under the direction of the Principal Officer, Mr. C. Matthews.

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INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

ENCIRCLE TI 50 ON PAGE 631 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Parliament

Monday, 24 May

EEC policy for industrial change

Mr. Robert Woof (Blaydon) asked about consultations between the Department of Industry and the EEC commission on the objectives and resources of a community policy for industrial change.

Mr. Williams told him that informal discussions have recently commenced between officials from the member states, under the chairmanship of the EEC commission's Directorate-General for Industrial and Technological Affairs, with a view to comparing national policies in the industrial field and exchanging ideas as to how the practical problems facing particular industrial sectors throughout the community might be tackled most effectively by all concerned.

Mr. Woof asked if any comparative study has been made with the EEC on various means used by governments to support the development of home industries; and with what result.

Mr. Williams said 'I am aware of two related studies, being undertaken by the International Institute of Management in Berlin and sponsored principally by the EEC Commission, into the impact of various measures in support of the development of industries in assisted regions of certain member countries.

' "The Economics of Industrial Subsidies" (edited by A. Whiting, published by HMSO 1976) reports papers presented at a conference organised by my department and includes one which gives some reference to selective intervention in some EEC member countries.'

'What representations have been made to the EEC commission on a medium-term plan covering the whole range of electronics industries?' asked Mr. Woof.

'None,' said Mr. Williams, 'The UK is however participating in discussions on a medium term programme for the data processing industry which the Commission of the European Communities is currently formulating.'

EEC financial support for British industry

Mr. Woof asked what was the amount of financial assistance and loans for direct assistance to support British industry from EEC funds in 1975.

Mr. Williams replied that the two main sources from which community funds are directly available to British industry are the European Investment Bank and the European Coal and Steel Community. He gave figures for approved loans and grants to the UK in 1975 as follows:

European Investment Bank
£196.5m (loans)
European Coal and Steel Community

i) STEEL a. £78.5m (modernisation loans)
b. £0.9m (research grants)

ii) COAL a. £71m (modernisation loans)
b. £5.7m (research grants)

'In addition loans to a total of £31.4 million were approved in 1975 for firms absorbing redundant coal and steel workers.' said Mr. Williams.

Mr. Woof then asked for details of the total amounts identifying in relation to the North-East of England, the recipients and purposes for which grants and loans have been made out of EEC funds.

Mr. Williams said 'EEC funds, in the form of loans and grants, are made available to UK manufacturing industry within my responsibility from the European Investment Bank, the European Coal and Steel Community and the Regional Development Fund. Loans and grants approved since Accession for the North East of England from these sources, and the purposes for which they were approved, are as follows:

European Investment Bank
Loans from the EIB are made available towards projects that further regional development, for modernising or converting undertakings, or for developing fresh activities called for by the progressive establishment of the Common Market or which are of common interest to several member states. The following loans have been approved for the North East:

BSC Teesside	£14.7m
Central Electricity Generating Board (Hartlepool)	£15.6m
Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation	£0.8m
Northumbrian Water Authority (Kielder)	£17.5m
British Rail (Shildon)	£6.3m
Total	£54.9m

European Coal and Steel Community Sreel
Loans for modernisation purposes:

BSC Redcar	£150m
Spartan Steel Ltd. (Newcastle)	£0.8m
Total	£150.8m

Coal
The funds received from the ECSC for the coal industry are administered nationally by the NCB and it is very difficult to give figures for the individual regions. The following are total loans and grants approved for the UK as a whole, from some of which the North East of England will have benefited.

1 Loans for modernisation purposes £116.2m
2 Research grants £10.0m
3 Grants to assist redundant coal workers £15.2m

In addition three reconversion loans totalling £7.7 million have been approved under Article 56 of the Treaty of Paris for firms in the North East offering employment to workers made redundant in the coal and steel industries.

Regional Development Fund
This fund was set up to assist investments in industry and projects in the service industry which maintain or create jobs, and also infrastructure projects closely linked to industrial developments which can be shown to either increase or maintain employment in assisted areas. The commission has agreed to contribute £12.2 million from the Fund towards the cost of industrial and infrastructure projects in the North East of England. About one half of this is in respect of two major projects: the Kielder dam and new berths at Teesdocks. The remainder is in respect of 55 industrial projects, 38 advance factories and 19 infrastructure projects

EEC regional aid

Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk) asked for a list of projects: 'that have been or will be financed by the £4.6 million that the Government extracted from the

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Lord Melchett
Leslie Huckfield

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Shirley Williams
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

£17.6 million allocated by the European Regional Development Fund; and how much will be or has been allocated to Merseyside?'

Mr. Williams answered that the size of the programme of advance factories to be built in England which was announced on 28 November 1975 was fixed after account had been taken of likely receipts – including the recent allocation of £4.6 million – from the European Regional Development Fund. The English programme amounted to about £9 million and of this £1.8 million would be spent on the construction of eight advance factories in the Merseyside special development area.

'What are the 16 projects on Merseyside which have received help from the European Regional Development Fund?' asked Mr. Kilroy-Silk.

'I refer my Hon Friend to *Trade and Industry* for 7 May which contains a list of the projects recently approved by the Commission for a contribution from the European Regional Development Fund towards their costs,' Mr. Williams replied.

Mr. Kilroy-Silk asked: 'How much does the allocation from the European Regional Development Fund work out per head of unemployed person: (a) on Merseyside, (b) in the North West, (c) the Northern Region, (d) Wales and (e) Scotland?'

Mr. Williams said that, on the basis of the unemployment figures for April 1976 and the European Regional Development Fund allocation to be made available in respect of projects in the relevant locations as a result of the Commission's decisions announced on 29 April, the information is:

Merseyside SDA	£22.7
North West (including Merseyside SDA)	£14.7
Northern	£62.6
Wales	£43.2
Scotland	£20.2

Hartlepool

Mr. Ted Leadbitter (Hartlepool) asked how many new jobs have been made available in Hartlepool; and what was the level of lost jobs during the past two years to the latest convenient date.

Mr. Williams said that some 2,200 additional jobs were expected to arise as a result of offers of Selective Financial Assistance under the Industry Act 1972 up to the end of April 1976. In addition further jobs would be created or preserved as a result of other Government assistance to industry.

Some 4,000 proposed redundancies were notified to the Department of Employment in the two years ended 30 April 1976 but not all of these may have taken effect: there were 3,300 persons unemployed (excluding adult students) in the Hartlepool 'Travel to Work Area' in April 1976, some 900 more than in April 1974.

International Computers (Holdings) Ltd.

Mr. Alexander Lyon (York) asked when the Department of Industry shareholding in International Computers (Holdings) Ltd. would be transferred to the National Enterprise Board.

Mr. Varley replied: 'I have consented to the transfer to the National Enterprise Board of the Government shareholding in International Computers (Holdings) Ltd. and I have laid a statement to that effect before Parliament today in accordance with Section 5 of the Industry Act 1975.'

Proteins from petroleum

Mr. Woof inquired about research into effective industrial refinery processes for producing proteins from petroleum.

'Practically all of the research and development on production of protein from petroleum hydrocarbon derivatives has been undertaken by industrial companies, said Mr. Williams.

'How far will the large and unforeseeable increase in the price of oil retard research in industrial processes for the extraction of single cell proteins?' asked Mr. Woof.

Mr. Williams answered: 'Increases in oil prices have had some effect on developments concerned with the extraction of protein from hydrocarbon derivatives; other factors have also had some influence, including the fall in the price of soya bean. It is not possible to predict at present what retarding effect, if any, these factors will have on future developments.'

Mr. Woof also asked how many companies in the EEC and in the UK are obtaining protein from oil feedstocks; and how far they compete with other sources of proteins.

'Two companies are each currently operating a large-scale pilot plant in the UK,' said Mr. Williams. 'One of these two companies is associated with the operation of a small commercial plant in France and with two 100,000 tonnes per annum plants which have been built in Italy and which are due to be commissioned in the near future. Petroleum-based single cell protein production at present accounts for a negligible proportion of the proteins supply.'

British Shipbuilding Corporation

Mr. Neville Trotter (Tynemouth) asked for the number of people employed in the shipbuilding, shiprepairing and marine engineering companies which will form part of the British Shipbuilding Corporation in: (a) the North East, (b) the Mersey, (c) the Clyde, (d) the rest of Scotland, and (e) the rest of England.

Mr. Huckfield gave the following available information:

Employment in the third quarter 1975	Thousands
North East	32
North West	20
Rest of England	13
Clydeside	20
Rest of Scotland	3
Total	88

Separate figures for Merseyside are not available.

Drypool Group Ltd.

Mr. Kevin McNamara (Kingston upon Hull Central) asked for a statement on the current situation in the Drypool Group Ltd., indicating what assets or yards have been disposed of by the receiver; how many purchasers have received government aid; how much and on what terms; what yards are at present the subject of discussion by prospective purchasers; to what extent these purchases are subject to government assistance under the Industry Act or otherwise.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'The United Towing Co. Ltd. is taking over the Selby shipyard of Drypool Group Ltd. on 1 June 1976 with an immediate investment of £500,000 and is forming a subsidiary company to run it. This is the only purchaser so far of a component part of the group and a loan of £400,000 under the normal Industry Act terms has been made available to United Towing Co. Ltd. The Beverley shipyard, the drydock complex at Hull and the firm of R. J. Shepherd Engineering Ltd. at Bridlington are the subject of discussions by the Receiver with prospective purchasers. Any resultant purchasers of these parts of the group can apply for financial assistance under the provisions of the Industry Act 1972 or for any other government assistance and consideration will, of course, be given to any applications.'

Mr. McNamara also asked for information on the present level of employment, yard by yard, in the Drypool Group Ltd.; how these figures compare with the number employed when the group went into receivership; and what further redundancies are expected.

Mr. Kaufman said that the present employment in the component parts of the group compared with the number employed when it went into receivership is as follows:

	Present employment	Employment when group went into receivership
Selby Shipyard	373	400
Beverley Shipyard	149	198
Drydock and shiprepair facility at Hull	27	205
Alexandra Dock, Hull	139	159
Maritime Electrics Ltd., Hull	36	45
Shepherds Marine & Industrial Spares Ltd., Hull	6	10
R. J. Shepherd Engineering Ltd., Bridlington	54	62
Marine & Hydraulic Services Ltd.	0	15

The Receiver expects the following redundancies over the period shown:

Beverley shipyard: 50 employees were declared redundant on Friday, 21 May and the remainder are expected to be redundant by October, assuming no purchaser is found who will require the labour force.

Drydock and shiprepair facility at Hull: Remaining employees redundant in next two weeks.

Alexandra Dock, Hull: Remaining employees redundant by November 1976.

Maritime Electrics, Hull: Remaining employees redundant by October 1976.

Shepherds Marine and Industrial Spares Ltd., Hull: No plans for redundancies.

R. J. Shepherd Engineering Ltd., Bridlington: No plans for redundancies.

United Towing Co. Ltd. who are taking over the Selby shipyard expect to employ 70 more people there eventually.

Export promotion

Mr. Woof asked what consultations the Department of Trade has had with British industry on export promotion in all major markets; and what are the prospects for expansion in the export market.

Mr. Meacher replied: 'My department has a continuing dialogue with industry on export promotion both with individual exporters and trade associations. Part of this dialogue is through the British Overseas Trade Board's Product Selection Exercise, whose principal purpose is to establish in which of our major overseas markets sectors of industry would

welcome the Board's export promotional support. In 1975 officials held discussions with some 75 trade associations and some 1,200 firms to establish on which products and in which markets the Board's support might be concentrated. Prospects in export markets are good. Current forecasts suggest the volume of world trade in manufactures may be as much as 15 per cent greater in 1976 than it was in 1975, and may continue to grow at this rate well into 1977.'

Trade deficit with EEC

Mr. Woof asked how the percentage trade deficit with member countries of the EEC compared with the percentage deficit with the rest of the world in the first quarter of 1976.

Mr. Meacher said that the visible trade deficit with the EEC on a balance of payments basis, seasonally adjusted, was 18 per cent of our imports from the community; the corresponding figure with the rest of the world was 2 per cent.

Agricultural raw materials

Figures were requested by Mr. Woof showing the total value and cost of fertilisers, animal feedstuffs and other agricultural raw materials of the UK imports for the years 1973 and 1974, respectively; compared with the imports of 1975.

Mr. Meacher answered that the value of total imports of fertilisers, feedingstuff for animals (not including unmilled cereals) and other raw materials principally for agricultural use was:

	£ million cif
1973	226
1974	270
1975	252

Commodity market prices

Mr. Woof asked for the most recent world commodity market prices in sterling and for a comparison with the figures for the last five years.

Mr. Meacher replied that average world commodity prices are not available, but gave producers' or UK market prices for specific grades of selected commodities:

Japanese imports and exports of cars

Mr. Woof asked how many cars were exported to Japan by each of the OECD countries in 1975; and how many Japan exported to each of those countries in the same year.

Mr. Meacher gave the following figures:

NUMBER OF PASSENGER CARS
(whether or not assembled)

Country of origin or destination	Imported into Japan	Exported from Japan
United Kingdom	2,366	120,741
Australia	99	173,736
Austria	nil	9,650
Belgium	nil	70,023
Canada	1,236	76,215
Denmark	nil	24,979
Finland	nil	29,959
France	719	26,312
German FR	21,664	48,725
Greece	nil	6,462
Iceland	nil	312
Ireland	nil	5,772
Italy	1,840	1,598
Luxembourg	nil	nil
Netherlands	2	77,423
Norway	nil	29,835
Portugal	nil	9,385
Spain	1	9
Sweden	952	12,077
Switzerland	nil	15,721
Turkey	nil	nil
United States	16,590	739,103
New Zealand	nil	20,948
Yugoslavia	nil	2

Source: Japanese exports and imports country by commodity 1975.

RPI and the rate of inflation

Questions were asked by Mr. Tim Rathbone (Lewes), Mr. Dennis Canavan (West Stirlingshire), Mr. Mike Thomas (Newcastle upon Tyne East), and Mr. Eric Moonman (Basildon) on the latest rise in the Retail Price Index and the current rate of inflation.

Mrs. Williams said: 'Over the 12 months to April 1976 the retail price index increased by 18.9 per cent.'

Miss Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake) asked: 'What have been the increases in the Retail Price Index over the past 12 months, over the past three months compounded at an annual rate and since February 1974, respectively?'

'18.9 per cent, 16.0 per cent and 50.9 per cent,' said Mrs. Williams.

'What is the maximum average monthly increase in the retail price index needed for the remaining months of 1976 to ensure that inflation is reduced to single figures by the end of the year?' asked Sir George Young (Ealing, Acton).

Mrs. Williams said: 'To reach a single figure inflation rate by the end of the year the average monthly increase in the retail price index must not much exceed 0.6 per cent.'

Mr. John Wakeham (Maldon) asked about the effect of the fall in the value of the £ sterling over the past two months on inflation during the current year.

Mrs. Williams said that the first round effect of a 10 per cent depreciation would add about 2½ per cent to the retail price index by the end of the year.

Mr. William Molloy (Ealing North) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection for a statement on the progress of her policy to limit price increases, with particular reference to food and household goods.

Mrs. Williams replied: 'The Price Code prevents manufacturers' prices from rising unless costs increase; my Rt. Hon. Friend is considering how the Code needs to be modified in order to encourage investment and jobs. Subsidies on basic foods are currently saving an average family of two adults and two children 70p per week. Under the Price Check Scheme, manufacturers and retailers have agreed to limit price increases on a range of family purchases. But unless costs are also controlled, prices cannot be held down without sacrificing jobs. As the events of the past eight months have shown, we can only control prices effectively if we control the amount we pay ourselves; because we are successfully doing that, the annual rate of inflation has fallen in each of the last eight months. We need to get it much lower still.'

The Price Code

Several members asked about plans to revise the Price Code.

Mrs. Williams answered: 'The Government's proposals will be set out in detail in a Consultative Document to be published next month. Profit and cost controls will be retained. Changes will be made, particularly to encourage investment and jobs.'

Effect of Price Code on motor industry

Mr. Hal Miller (Bromsgrove and Redditch) asked what representations have been received from motor car manufacturers about the effect of the Price Code on investment.

Mr. Maclennan answered that the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders have argued that the exemption of their industry from the Price Code, or at least a substantial

Commodity	Description	Unit of price and quantity	Annual averages 1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	Price on 17 May 1976 unless noted otherwise
Copper	Wirebars, London Metal Exchange settlement price	£ per tonne	445	428	728	878	557	840
Lead	London Metal Exchange settlement price	£ per tonne	104	121	175	253	186	270
Zinc	European producers' price	£ per tonne	140	156	216	333	366	440
Tin	London Metal Exchange settlement price	£ per tonne	1,438	1,507	1,969	3,500	3,092	4,130
Aluminium	Ingots, Canadian producers' price	£ per tonne	257	235	245	327	392	456
Nickel	Refined, Canadian producers' price	£ per tonne	1,234	1,253	1,395	1,651	2,045	2,553
Raw wool	Merino 64's	p per kilo	70.7	119.5	282.1	211.8	174.1	210.0 (1)
Raw cotton	1 1/16 inch	p per kilo	30.7	31.9	55.8	61.6	53.1	85.2
Raw jute	White 'C' grade	£ per ton	145	150	147	182	210	212
Natural rubber	No. 1 R.S.S.	p per kilo	14.4	14.8	30.3	34.3	31.5	48.8
Beef	Eire hindquarters	p per lb	21.9	25.8	32.7	35.0	41.0	51.0 (2)
Lamb	New Zealand (including duty)	p per lb	13.7	18.0	25.6	27.1	29.6	37.7 (2)
Bacon	Danish A1	p per lb	15.9	18.7	28.1	31.3	37.4	42.9 (3)
Wheat	US Dark Northern Spring	£ per ton	n.a.	n.a.	67.1	99.1	92.7	103.0
	US No. 2 Hard Winter	£ per ton	n.a.	32.8	59.9	90.6	88.0	n.a.
Maize	No. 3 American Yellow	£ per ton	28.6	27.4	46.5	67.3	60.2	72.5 (4)
Coffee	Uganda Robusta Type 2, 3 months futures	£ per tonne	358	371	433	525	584	1,435 (4)
Cocoa	Accra/Lagos 3 months futures	£ per tonne	222	260	503	748	612	1,046 (4)
Tea	Average price at London tea sales	£ per tonne	433	420	432	597	623	751 (1)
Palm oil	Malaysian nearest futures	£ per tonne	108	87	156	288	193	190 (4)
Soya beans	US No. 2 nearest futures	£ per tonne	54	59	95	121	100	118 (5)

n.a. = not available. (1) Week ending 14 May. (2) 10 May. (3) 13 May. (4) 14 May. (5) 15 May.

relaxation of price control, is desirable to encourage investment. Mrs. Williams is examining ways of modifying the Code to assist investment and would take representations from all interested parties into account.

Price Check Scheme

Questions about the Price Check Scheme were asked by Mr. John Cartwright (Greenwich, Woolwich East), Mr. Norman Lamont (Kingston upon Thames), Mr. Anthony Steen (Liverpool, Wavertree) and Mr. Giles Shaw (Pudsey).

Mrs. Williams said: 'The Price Commission has reported encouragingly on the prices of items in the Price Check Scheme which is now half way through its six months life. Of 43 groups of products covered by the Scheme, the prices of:

Four had increased, but less than 5 per cent
33 had remained stable within ½ of 1 per cent
Six had actually fallen during the two months of the Scheme.

'This picture is confirmed by information gathered from leading retailers by the Retail Consortium.

'I have agreed to the withdrawal of car batteries from the Scheme, under the agreed withdrawal clause, because of a sharper than expected increase in the price of imported lead. This makes little difference to the coverage of the Scheme, which amounts to between 15 and 20 per cent of consumers' expenditure. In addition, many retailers have added items of their own choice to the Scheme, such as additional lines of clothing, footwear and food.'

Consumer Credit Act

Mr. Laurie Pavitt (Brent South) asked if it is necessary to add charges such as surveyors' or legal fees in order to convert the flat interest rate to the true rate in accordance with the provisions of the Consumer Credit Act.

Mr. Fraser said: 'My current intention is that the Consumer (Total Charge for Credit) Regulations' which I hope to lay before the House shortly will require all charges payable by a consumer under a credit agreement, linked transactions or any security to be included in the total charge from credit from which the rate thereof is to be calculated. In some circumstances this could include surveyors or legal fees.'

Mr. Pavitt asked how many documents would need to be issued to borrowers by land mortgage to comply with the provisions of the Consumer Credit Act.

Mr. Fraser said: 'Much will depend on the way in which creditors choose to conduct their business. In a case where the creditor signs the agreement first, the basic requirement is for an advance copy of the agreement to be given to the debtor seven days before the signature copy is sent to him, of which he must also be sent a copy. These provisions do not apply where the loan is for house purchase purposes, and it seems right that consumers should be given the fullest opportunity to appreciate that in taking out a loan for other purposes secured in this way they are putting their home at risk.'

Mr. Pavitt asked if steps would be taken to make the provisions of the Act easily understood by both lenders and borrowers by issuing guides in simple language.

'Section 4 of the Consumer Credit Act places an obligation on the Director General of Fair Trading to give information and advice as appropriate about the operation of the Act and other related matters,' said Mr. Fraser. 'Some material has already been issued and suitable material will be issued later as the rest of the Act is made effective.'

'What steps are being taken to exempt normal overdrafts given by the clearing banks to their customers for the heavier provision of the Consumer Credit Act?' asked Mr. Pavitt.

Mr. Fraser replied: 'There is provision in the Act for the Director General of Fair Trading to exempt from certain provisions those agreements allowing the debtor to overdraw on a current account. In addition, in the making of the regulations we are consulting widely and will be willing to consider any points about overdrafts made by the clearing banks.'

Mr. Tony Newton (Braintree) asked for a statement on progress in the issue of licences under the Consumer Credit Act.

'The Act imposes on the Director General of Fair Trading the duty of administering the licensing system,' said Mr. Fraser. 'He has informed me that up to 20 May some 4,800 applications have been received (a sizeable proportion within the last few days) and 216 licences have been issued.'

Mrs. Ann Taylor (Bolton West) asked about plans for the implementation of the Act.

Mr. Fraser said: 'The licensing programme started in February of this year and is expected to be completed in two years. This summer we hope to make effective the extortionate credit bargain and credit reference agency provisions. Later this year we hope to make the provisions relating to the seeking of business effective and then to complete the remainder of the implementation over roughly the same period as the licensing programme.'

Food prices

Mr. Tony Durant (Reading North) asked by how much the food index has increased over the past 12 months to date inclusive of seasonal foods; and by how much it has increased over the past three months on the same basis.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'The food index, which includes seasonal food, increased by 19.9 per cent between 15 April 1975 and 13 April 1976 and by 5.7 per cent between 13 January and 13 April 1976.'

Mr. Geoffrey Dodsworth (South West Hertfordshire) asked what was the value of food subsidies per person per week in the average family of four persons comprising two children over 11 years of age and two adults.

'The estimated average value for a typical family of two adults and two children is about 18p per week per person,' said Mr. Maclennan.

Mr. Dennis Skinner (Bolsover) asked what steps are being taken to control the price of potatoes.

'As I have explained on a number of occasions, price controls cannot overcome the shortfall in potatoes,' said Mr. Maclennan. 'If we try to hold down prices artificially, we shall discourage the imports on which we must increasingly depend until the new home crop is lifted.'

Petrol prices

Mr. Sydney Tierney (Birmingham, Yardley) asked for guidance 'about the practice of garages selling petrol at prices which do not correspond to actual units of money'.

Mr. Fraser replied: 'Where the pump indicates the total price to be paid, this difficulty can be avoided by taking delivery of a quantity of petrol corresponding to a tenderable sum of money. The quantity delivered will be determined by the price per gallon set on the pump.

'The Trade Descriptions Act 1968 prohibits any indication that goods are being offered at a price less than that at which they are in fact being offered. Anyone who thinks that the Act has been contravened can report the facts to his local weights and measures authority, who are responsible for enforcing the Act.'

Tyre pressure gauges

Mr. Marcus Lipton (Lambeth Central) asked about action to ensure the accuracy of tyre pressure gauges provided by garages for the use of motorists.

Mr. Fraser said: 'My department is developing proposals for a tyre pressure gauge testing scheme which can be nationally recognised and will take advantage of the voluntary testing service already offered by many local weights and measures authorities. We have no powers to deal with this under existing legislation.'

Artificially inflated recommended retail prices

Mr. Nigel Lawson (Blaby) asked about 'the growing practice of artificially inflated recommended retail prices'.

Mr. Fraser replied: 'I have no plans at present for new legislation although I recognise that recommended retail prices can cause problems. This subject was investigated by the Monopolies Commission who in their report of 1969 concluded that the balance of benefit or detriment to the public interest varied between different trades. However, in his consultative document on Bargain Offer Claims published last year, the Director General of Fair Trading invited comments on whether the Commission's conclusions were still valid in the light of current market conditions. The Office of Fair Trading are now studying the response to this invitation.'

Quantity markings on fortified wines

Mr. David Watkins (Consett) asked if the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection would seek to make it a legal obligation to show quantity marking on bottles of sherry and other fortified wines.

'My Rt. Hon. Friend intends to do so as soon as we change over in this country from the "minimum" contents system to the "average" system,' said Mr. Maclennan.

Weights and Measures Bill

Mr. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked about representations received in connection with the further progress on the Weights and Measures, Etc., Bill.

Mr. Fraser said: 'Since the announcement of the postponement of the Bill's second reading on 23 March I have received representations from 31 organisations, 21 representing industry and 10 representing consumers. The overwhelming majority of these support the

view that the orderly completion of the metrication programme is essential and that the Bill should be proceeded with as soon as possible.

'I have also received representations from individual members of the public, 18 opposing and 11 supporting metrication.'

Fire risk from cellular foam

Mr. Kilroy-Silk referred to the fire and toxic fumes risk from cellular foam, and asked if safeguards would be introduced.

Mr. Fraser replied: 'The most effective safeguard is to take normal precautions to prevent fires occurring and the Government and other bodies already promote a great deal of publicity on this subject. Following the recent publication by the Building Research Establishment of a report on government-sponsored research on the fire hazards of plastics in furniture, my department has asked the furniture trade to take the findings into account in deciding on the composition of upholstered furniture. The report is now being studied in more detail to see whether any additional guidance can be issued pending the availability of suitable fire test methods now being developed.'

Tuesday, 25 May

Steel supplies

Mr. John Stokes (Halesowen and Stourbridge) asked for a statement on the availability of supplies of steel to British industry having regard to the expected upturn in the economy.

'Latest assessments indicate that overall UK steel capacity should be adequate for expected increases in demand this year and next,' said Mr. Huckfield. 'Steel users will benefit from the additional capacity recently installed or under construction by the British Steel Corporation and by the private sector. The Government made available in 1975/76 substantial finance for BSC stocks to help supplies when the economy improves. As part of the Government's industrial strategy, the Iron and Steel Sector Working Party under NEDO chairmanship is examining the need for action to deal with any potential shortages of particular products which can be identified.'

Iron making

Mr. T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked what decision has been reached upon the use of nuclear heat for iron making; and whether the UK is still participating with the Ensec upon research and development in this field.

'No decisions have been reached or are likely in the near future,' said Mr. Huckfield. 'The British Steel Corporation and other UK organisations are active members of the European Nuclear Steelmaking Club (Ensec) which is currently engaged in feasibility studies.'

Mr. Skeet also asked for a statement on the use of natural gas for the direct reduction of iron ore.

Mr. Huckfield said: 'The direct reduction of iron ore by the use of natural gas is now an established process and the British Steel Corporation is building a plant at Hunterston. A number of private sector steel companies are also considering building a plant in the UK and my department is in close touch with the sponsoring company.'

OECD guidelines for multinationals

Mr. J. M. Craigen (Glasgow, Maryhill) inquired about progress in discussions within OECD over the preparation of guidelines for the operation of multinational companies.

Mr. Huckfield said: 'OECD's Committee on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises, of which the UK has been an active member, has prepared a package of measures, including guidelines for multinational enterprises, which will be put to the meeting of OECD Ministers on 20/21 June 1976.'

Consumer Protection Advisory Committee

Miss Jo Richardson (Barking) asked when the report of the Consumer Protection Advisory Committee on seeking to sell goods without revealing that they are being sold in the course of a business would be published.

Mr. Fraser said: 'The Committee's third report, based on a reference from the Director General of Fair Trading, has been laid before Parliament and published as a House of Commons paper today.

'The reference contained proposals for ensuring that consumers are not misled about the status of the person seeking to sell goods. The Committee agreed with the Director General that the practice adversely affects the economic interest of consumers; they also generally agreed with his proposals for controlling the practice. I hope very shortly to present a draft Order for the approval of Parliament to give effect to the Director General's proposals.'

Wednesday, 26 May

Regional Development Fund

Mr. Robert Kilroy-Silk (Ormskirk) asked why the Northern Region received over twice as much as the North West from the European Regional Development Fund; why the North West which has a higher total of unemployed and a larger population than Wales received less from the European Regional Development Fund; why Merseyside, with a higher total of unemployed and larger population than Wales, received less from the European Regional Development Fund; and what criteria were employed for distributing the £17 million allocation of the European Regional Development Fund; and if he is satisfied that these meet regional needs.

Mr. Williams replied: 'Various considerations combine to affect the number and value of projects put forward in respect of Merseyside, the rest of the North West Region and other areas.

'The European Regional Development Fund contributes only to projects which are eligible under the Fund Regulation. In selecting projects on which to seek a Fund contribution, the Government have to bear particularly in mind the requirement of the Fund Regulation that priority be given to projects located in priority areas. This means that projects located in the Special Development and Development Areas have a higher priority than those located in the Intermediate Areas. This broadly reflects the Government's own view of priorities for regional aid. It is also necessary to take account of the other provisions in the Regulation, and its interpretation by Community institutions. The choice of projects is also influenced by the investments actually being undertaken in the Assisted Areas, the range of projects suggested by local and other public authorities as the subject of applications to the Fund, the willingness of industrial investors to have their projects used for applications to the Fund, and the priorities of the Government's Regional Policy.'

Mr. Ted Leadbitter (Hartlepool) asked for the amounts received in each region of the United Kingdom from the European Regional Development Fund, with the unemployment levels, to the latest available date.

Mr. Williams said: 'The European Regional Development Fund aids projects situated only within the Assisted Areas of Great Britain and in Northern Ireland. Since October 1975, the Commission has agreed to contribute £56.5 millions towards the cost of eligible projects in these areas. The division of this £56.5 million and the latest unemployment levels are:

	£000	Unemployment level at April 1976 (%)
ENGLAND		
Northern	12,940	7.1
North West	6,017	6.6
Yorks and Humberside	2,203	5.3
East Midlands Assisted Areas	297	5.2 (a)
West Midlands Assisted Areas	11	7.2 (a)
South West Assisted Areas	947	9.2 (a)
	22,415	
Northern Ireland	11,249	9.2
Scotland	13,387	6.7
Wales	9,452	7.2
United Kingdom	56,503	

Note:
(a) As only part of the East Midlands, West Midlands and South West Regions are Assisted Areas, and therefore eligible for contributions from the Regional Development Fund, the enemployment levels given relate only to the relevant parts of those Regions.

DoI and NEB interests

Mr. T. H. H. Skeet (Bedford) asked the Secretary of State for Industry to list the industries for which he has responsibility in which his department, the NEB or other state agencies have an equity interest, indicating the percentage of total assets in each particular industry controlled by the state.

Mr. Huckfield referred to replies given by Mr. Kaufman on 26 November 1975 (*Trade and Industry*, 5 December 1975, pages 629-30) and 8 March 1976 (*Trade and Industry*, 19 March 1976, page 786). In addition the Department has since acquired 63 per cent of the issued equity of John Hastie and Co. Ltd., and has transferred to the NEB its holding in International Computers (Holdings) Ltd. The NEB separately has acquired further equity

in International Computers (Holdings) thus bringing its total shareholding in the company to 24.2 per cent. The NEB, too, has increased its holding in Brown Boveri Kent Ltd. to 17.7 per cent and has acquired 35 per cent of the equity of the Anglo-Venezuelan Railway Corporation Ltd. The National Research Development Corporation's shareholdings are set out in its latest Annual Report. Since it was published the Corporation has disposed of its holdings in Arcturus Electronics, Digimatics, Polaron Instruments, Process Peripherals, and Video Animation; has increased its holding in Data Recording Instruments to 45 per cent; and has acquired 15 per cent of the equity of the Ecological Engineering Co. Ltd.

Shipbuilding contracts

Mr. Arthur Blenkinsop (South Shields) asked the Secretary of State for Industry what action has been taken to implement his decision to offer performances bond and cost escalation insurance for shipbuilding contracts.

Mr. Varley said that both schemes are now fully operational. He added: 'My department is considering applications for shipbuilders on both home and export orders, and on cost escalation insurance for the latter I have agreed with the Secretary of State for Trade that my department should assume the lead from ECGD.'

UK/Spanish trade

Mr. George Reid (Clackmannan and East Stirlingshire) asked for a table showing the comparative duty rates on cast iron baths, steel baths, and cookware shipped from the United Kingdom to Spain, and from Spain to the United Kingdom, detailing in each case the respective customs duties, home compensation tax, export rebates and Government loans/interest rates available to manufacturers.

Mr. Meacher said: 'The customs duties on cast iron baths, steel baths and cookware are:

	Customs heading	Customs duty	Home compensation tax levy/ export rebate
Spanish duties	73.38 (all items)	20%	12%
UK duties	73.38 BI (baths)	6%	
	73.38 BII (cookware)	9%	

'The Home Compensation Tax Levy is similar to the UK VAT. It is applied to virtually all Spanish imports from whatever source and deducted from all Spanish exports whatever their destination. Like Her Majesty's Government the Spanish Government has a wide range of measures to support industries in the 'Development Poles' (similar to the UK assisted areas). As in the UK these arrangements vary according to the nature, problems and location of the individual firm.

'In the private sector Spanish measures generally take the form of tax reliefs rather than loans. In the public sector the state industrial holding company (INI) has access to government loans at interest rates of 6 per cent upwards.'

Thursday, 27 May

Treaty of Rome – Article 90

Mr. Skeet (Bedford) asked if directions under Article 90 of the Treaty of Rome are subject to veto or modification by the Council of Ministers.

Mr. Meacher replied: 'Directives issued by the commission under Article 90.3 of the EEC Treaty must, I am advised, be appropriate to ensure the application of the provisions of Article 90. The Council of Ministers has no power to veto or modify such directives, but equally the commission has no power in such directives to enlarge the scope of rules contained in the treaty. If it was considered that the commission, in issuing a directive, had acted in excess of its competence, or misused its power, it would be open to a member state, or the council, to have the legality of the directive reviewed by the Court of Justice under Article 173 of the EEC Treaty.'

Industrial production

Mr. Ivor Clemitson (Luton East) asked for the value of imports in each of the past 10 years expressed as a percentage of total industrial production in the UK.

Mr. Meacher replied that estimates of the value of imports of manufactured products as a percentage of the UK output of the same products for the years 1966-75 were as follows:

	Imports as percentage of output
1966	23
1967	26
1968	28
1969	26
1970	27
1971	26
1972	28
1973	35
1974	39
1975	35

Notes:
1 Manufactured products are the products of manufacturing industry as defined in the Standard Industrial Classification 1968.
2 Output has been estimated free of duplication, ie to exclude sales within manufacturing industry.
3 The percentages overstate imports as a proportion of total output because of the inclusion of goods for re-export, processing and repair.

Mr. Clemitson also asked for the percentage of total industrial production exported in each of the past 10 years.

Mr. Meacher gave estimates of the percentage, by value, of the UK output of manufactured products exported in the years 1966-75 as follows:

	Percentage of output exported
1966	26
1967	25
1968	28
1969	29
1970	30
1971	31
1972	31
1973	34
1974	37
1975	38

Notes:
1 Manufactured products are the products of manufacturing industry as defined in the Standard Industrial Classification 1968.
2 Output has been estimated free of duplication, ie to exclude sales within manufacturing industry.
3 The percentages overstate the proportion of output which is exported, because of the inclusion of goods for re-export processing and repair and the fob basis of valuation.

Commodity prices

Mr. Skeet asked for an indication of the trend in commodity prices during the past year; the percentage of total increments in prices due to the upward thrust in the commodity market; and the percentage attributable to sterling depreciation against the dollar.

Mr. Meacher said: 'A general indication of commodity price movements is provided by the Economist World Commodity Price Index. Between April 1975 and April 1976 it increased in sterling terms by about 39 per cent, and in dollar terms by about 8 per cent. The purchasing power of sterling depreciated against the US dollar by 28 per cent over the same period. It is not meaningful to express either the world market movement (in dollars) or the effect of sterling depreciation as a percentage of the overall change in sterling prices.'

Mr. Skeet asked how copper prices have fared during the past year; to what extent the UK has suffered through the continued depreciation of sterling; and for similar information for zinc and tin.

'The market prices of copper and tin on 19 May were respectively 50 per cent and 51 per cent higher than 12 months earlier,' said Mr. Meacher. 'Both these commodities are quoted in the UK market in sterling. It is very difficult to estimate the effect of sterling depreciation on the UK market price, since this has indirect as well as direct effects on price levels. However, the increases in the prices of copper and tin over the past 12 months converted to a dollar basis at the prevailing exchange rates were about 18 per cent and 19 per cent respectively. The producers' price of zinc, at which the bulk of world zinc is traded, was quoted in sterling until the beginning of this year, since when it has been quoted in US dollars; therefore no consistent price series can be compared over the past 12 months. However, if prices are converted at the prevailing exchange rate the sterling price has risen by 22 per cent over this period; in dollar terms the price has fallen by 4 per cent.'

Trade with Brazil

Mr. Skeet asked for information on the leading items of trade with Brazil in the past year; and whether there have been any discernible trends over the past decade.

Mr. Meacher said that the leading items in 1975 were as follows:

Exports	£ million fob
Non-electrical machinery	62.6
Chemicals	29.6
Metals	22.2
Transport equipment	11.6
Electrical machinery	10.2
Other goods	24.7
Total	160.9

Imports	£ million cif
Coffee, tea, cocoa and spices	35.6
Sugar and sugar preparations	30.9
Metalliferous ores	26.2
Wood lumber and cork	10.7
Meat and meat preparations	10.1
Oil seeds and oil nuts	8.6
Tobacco	7.9
Other goods	44.9
Total	174.9

'Trade has risen very considerably since

1966 when exports were valued at £17.1 million fob and imports £31.5 million cif, said Mr. Meacher. 'The rise in machinery exports is particularly noticeable as are the increases in the values of imports of sugar, coffee and iron ore.'

Steering Committee on Pilotage

Mr. Roger Stott (Westhoughton) asked whether those most directly concerned in marine pilotage, the pilots and the shipowners who use their services, accept in general the recommendation in the Report of the Steering Committee on Pilotage.

'Yes,' said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'At meetings with representatives of pilots and shipowners this week they fully endorsed their general acceptance of the recommendations. I hope that legislative time can soon be found to implement the recommendations.'

Microelectronic support scheme

Questions about the microelectronic support scheme were asked by Mr. Tony Newton (Braintree).

Mr. Williams replied: 'The present terms of reference of the Microelectronics Support Scheme are as announced in 1972, ie to encourage the development of integrated circuits specially designed for particular applications by British semiconductor manufacturers.

'The total of public funds available under the Scheme is £10 million of which £3.9 million have been paid to the three British-owned semiconductor manufacturers who manufacture integrated circuits specially designed for particular applications. They are Ferranti, GEC and Plessey. It would not be proper to publish the amount paid to each. Another £1.2 million has been authorised; thus the total allocated is £5.1 million.

'Further projects are under discussion to the value of about £1 million.

'One hundred and twenty-two have been approved under the Scheme and these have resulted in the development of approximately 300 circuits. Total sales of the three companies in the field supported by the Scheme are at an annual rate of £10 million of which about 40 per cent is direct exports; these are expected to rise substantially. Import saving is not a prime objective of the Scheme but a substantial part of the domestic sales of about £6 million would otherwise have been met from imports.'

Treaty of Rome – fair competition rules

Mr. Skeet (Bedford) asked how advanced the commission's proposals are for a directive to control the financial operations of state corporations in relation to the fair competition rules of the Treaty of Rome.

Mr. Huckfield said: 'I understand that the Commission is preparing a directive to introduce rules to assist it to check that member states operating through public undertakings and the undertakings themselves are complying with the Treaty. There is no indication that its appearance is imminent.'

HS146

Mrs. Helene Hayman (Welwyn and Hatfield) asked whether, in view of the recommendation by the Organising Committee of British Aerospace that proposals for further development of the HS146 should be supported, the Secretary of State for Industry would authorise Hawker Siddeley Aviation to proceed with the plan put to him.

'I am urgently examining the Organising Committee's recommendations on Hawker Siddeley Aviation's proposal for further limited government expenditure on keeping open the option of future launch of this aircraft and intend to announce my decision as soon as possible,' said Mr. Huckfield.

Price Commission

Mr. Michael Brotherton (Louth) asked how many firms in the Price Commission's category three list have been found to be making excess profits in each month since 1 January 1976.

Mr. Maclennan told him that the Price Commission publishes monthly the number of agreements by Category III firms to make price reductions in order to eliminate excess profits. For 1976, the figures are:

January	176
February	175
March	198
April	308

Mr. Brotherton also asked what powers Price Commission inspectors have to investigate the books and accounts of small business in commission category three.

Mr. Maclennan said: 'Under section 15 of the Counter-Inflation Act 1973, the Price Commission has power by notice to require the production of documents, returns and other information for the purposes of the Act. Under paragraph 3 of Schedule 4 to the Act designated officers would have certain powers to require the production of documents for the purpose of determining whether an order or notice under section 6 of the Act has been complied with.'

Food prices

Mr. Teddy Taylor (Glasgow, Cathcart) asked by what percentage retail food prices have risen from October 1974 to the most recent date for which figures are available; and what was the comparable percentage figure for an equal period of months ended October 1974.

'Percentage increases in the Retail Food Index over two consecutive 18-month periods to the latest available date are set out below,' said Mr. Maclennan. 'Because the comparison is influenced by seasonal price movements for certain foods, the percentage increases in the seasonal and non-seasonal food sub-indices have been included.

	Percentage increases	
	17 Apr. 1973 to 15 Oct. 1974	15 Oct. 1974 to 13 Apr. 1976
Retail Food Index of which:	26.0	41.9
non-seasonal foods index	28.8	34.5
seasonal foods index*	14.4	81.5

* Includes potatoes.

'The rate of increase in the non-seasonal food index and the overall food index in the 18-month period ending 15 October 1974 was held back by the development of the food subsidy programme. In the subsequent period the programme had less effect on the rate of increase but of course continues to contain the level of the indices below what they would otherwise have been.'

Friday, 28 May

Recycling of waste paper

Mr. Ronald Atkins (Preston North) asked whether there had been an increase in the amount of waste paper recycled by the United Kingdom paper and board industry in recent years.

Mr. Williams replied: 'Consumption of waste paper by the UK Paper and Board industry rose steadily from 1.8 million tonnes in 1971 to 2.1 million tonnes in 1974. In 1975 it fell to 1.7 million tonnnes as a result of the economic recession. The forecast is however that this figure will rise to 3.2 million tonnes by 1981.'

International Computers (Holdings) Ltd.

Mr. Kevin McNamara (Kingston upon Hull Central) asked if the consideration had been determined for the Government shareholding in International Computers (Holdings) Ltd. which had been transferred to the NEB.

Mr. Varley: 'The consideration has now been determined to be £4,970,000, and I have laid a statement to that effect before Parliament in accordance with Section 5 of the Industry Act 1975.'

Domestic steel market

Mr. Dafydd Wigley (Caernarvon) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, what share of the United Kingdom domestic market for steel products was held by the British Steel Corporation, the United Kingdom private sector and imports, respectively, during each year since the establishment of the British Steel Corporation.

Mr. Huckfield gave the following information:

Percentages

	British Steel Corporation	UK private sector	Imports
1968	66	25	9
1969	69	25	6
1970	71	24	5
1971	67	25	8
1972	63	24	13
1973	63	24	13
1974	57	25	18
1975	55	26	19

Sources of data:
Annual Statistics of the Iron and Steel Statistics Bureau.
Annual Statistics of the British Steel Corporation.

'Areas for Expansion' campaign

Mr. Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) asked the Secretary of State for Industry how many jobs had been created or re-located in development areas as a result of his department's 'Areas for Expansion' campaign.

Mr. Williams replied that it was not possible to relate estimates of new employment expected to arise in the assisted areas with particular advertising campaigns.

Mr. Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley) also asked the Secretary of State for Industry, what was the cost of advertising his department's 'Areas for Expansion' campaign, what was the total cost of the campaign; and how many 'coupons' were returned.

Mr. Williams replied that since 1967

numerous national and regional advertising campaigns for the 'Areas for Expansion' had been undertaken. During the period January/March 1976 the cost of national press advertising was approximately £74,300: 1,333 coupons were returned.

Coal

Mr. George Grant (Morpeth) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, what amount of coal had been exported during the last 12 months, and to which countries, at the latest available date.

Mr. George Grant (Morpeth) also asked what amount of coal had been imported during the last 12 months, at what cost, and from which countries at the latest available date.

Mr. Meacher gave the following information for the 12 months ending March 1976:

Exports	Thousand metric tons
Total	1,633
of which:	
France	568
Belgium and Luxembourg	335
Federal Republic of Germany	207
Netherlands	147
Irish Republic	146
Norway	109
Sweden	52
Tunisia	21
Italy	17
Other countries	31

Imports	Thousand metric tons	£'000 (cif)
Total	4,723	100,384
of which:		
Australia	2,641	47,969
USA	1,391	37,271
Canada	342	4,885
Poland	87	2,202
Netherlands	62	1,531
Federal Republic of Germany	52	2,166
North Vietnam	43	1,532
Irish Republic	35	593
South Africa	30	1,037
Belgium and Luxembourg	27	772
Other countries	13	426

Industrial Estates Corporation

Mr. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, what are the functions and duties of the English Industrial Estates Corporation.

Mr. Williams said that broadly speaking they were to build and manage Government factories in the English Assisted Areas. The functions were set out in Section 11 of the Local Employment Act 1972, and these were added to in Section 13 of the Industry Act 1972.

Quotas for Hong Kong

Mr. Jim Marshall (Leicester South) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if he would list in the Official Report the original agreed quotas for 1975, 1976, and 1977 for tariff headings 60.04 and 60.05 for Hong Kong, and the revised quotas for 1976.

Mr. Meacher gave the following information:

Tariff heading	Description	Unit of quantity	1975	1976	1977
60.04	Knitted shirts, tee-shirts, undervests, singlets and the like	000's	11,527	11,585	11,643
	Knitted undergarments (other than those above and drawers and briefs)	Tonnes	733	763	793
60.05	Jerseys, pullovers, slipovers, twinsets, cardigans, bed jackets and jumpers	000's	17,585	17,673	17,761
	Other knitted outer garments	Tonnes	1,821	1,850	1,924

The EEC commission has not yet announced revised quotas for 1976: the new levels will be published as soon as they are available.

Mr. Marshall also asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if he would list in the Official Report for tariff headings 60.04 and 60.05 the quotas to be imposed on Taiwan for 1975, 1976 and 1977 and the revised quotas for 1976 arising from the overshipment in 1975.

Mr. Meacher replied with the following information:

Tariff heading	Description	Unit of quantity	1975	1976	1977
60.04	Knitted shirts	000's	2,378	2,484	2,575
	Knitted undergarments other than shirts, drawers, briefs, tights and panti-hose	Tonnes	134	190	240
60.05	Knitted undergarments other than shirts, drawers, Jerseys, pullovers, slipovers, twin-sets, cardigans, bed jackets and jumpers	000's	15,653	15,731	15,810
	Other knitted outergarments	Tonnes	348	366	390

Because imports in 1975 were in excess of the quotas introduced retrospectively, the quotas for 1975 and 1976 were combined so that goods already paid for could be licensed. There were no revised quotas as such for 1976 but any balances available had been allocated to importers on the basis of past trade. The total of the combined quotas for 1975 and 1976 would not of course be exceeded.

Mr. Marshall also asked the Secretary of State for Trade, if he would list in the Official Report for tariff headings 60.04 and 60.05 the quotas for South Korea for the end of 1975, for the whole of 1976 and for 1977.

Mr. Meacher replied with the following information:

Tariff heading	Description	Unit of quantity	1975 (14 Aug. to 31 Dec.)	1976	1977
60.04	Knitted shirts, tee-shirts, undervests, singlets and the like	Units	357,353	1,708,000	1,995,000
60.05	Jerseys, pullovers, slipovers, twin-sets, cardigans, bed jackets and jumpers	Units	4,319,050	11,860,000	11,919,000
	Other knitted outergarments	Tonnes	—	300	321

Car imports

Mr. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, what had been the level of Japanese car imports for each of the years 1960 to 1975.

Mr. Meacher gave the following numbers imported:

1960	1
1961	2
1962	2
1963	2
1964	15
1965	168
1966	1,230
1967	1,425
1968	5,791
1969	2,676
1970	4,291
1971	16,971
1972	68,676
1973	97,342
1974	86,899
1975	124,987

Mr. Winterton also asked the Secretary of State for Trade if he would list the total percentage of motor cars imported for each of the years 1960 to 1975.

Mr. Meacher gave as follows information about the proportion of new car registrations represented by imported cars in each of the years 1965 to 1975. Information on registrations of imported cars before 1965 is not readily available.

REGISTRATIONS OF IMPORTED CARS AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL UK NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS 1965 TO 1975

	Per cent		Per cent
1965	5.1	1970	14.3
1966	6.4	1971	19.3
1967	8.3	1972	23.5
1968	8.3	1973	27.4
1969	10.4	1974	27.9
		1975	33.2

Source:
Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Mr. Winterton further asked the Secretary of State for Trade, what recent representations he had received from the British motor industry concerning the level of imports of motor cars.

Mr. Meacher said: 'Representatives of the motor industry saw the then Parliamentary Under Secretary for Trade on 6 April. Several discussions have also taken place with officials on present and future levels of imports.'

Airports in the North East

Mr. Ian Wrigglesworth (Teesside, Thornaby) wanted to know when the Secretary of State for Trade expected to be able to publish the Government's decision on the future development of airports in the North East.

Mr. Clinton Davis said that Part 2, dealing with the regional airports, of the Government's consultation document on airport strategy would be published shortly. The Government would announce its conclusions on the future role of individual airports following consultations on this document with local authorities, airport committees, amenity groups and others concerned.

Footwear imports

Mr. Mike Noble (Rossendale) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, whether he would now take

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V. Duffy

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(Tel: 061-832 2471)
K. A. Miller; A. N. Percy

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London House, Hide Street, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 1QN
(Tel: 0782-45256/8)
A. K. Sales

Swansea
5th Floor, Sun Alliance Building, 166/167 St Helens' Road, Swansea SA1 5DL (Tel: 0792-428613)
P. W. Nunn

Watford
40 Clarendon Road, Watford WD1 1HJ
(Tel. 0923-44288)
F. L. Sage

action to restrict imports of women's leather footwear from Brazil.

Mr. Meacher said that the British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation had asked his department to take action against subsidised imports of women's leather footwear from Brazil. Such action could only be taken if satisfactory evidence was provided that imports were being subsidised, that the subsidisation was causing or threatening material injury to the UK industry and that such action was in the national interest. At present we were still awaiting evidence of material injury from the UK industry, if this was received, we would pursue the matter urgently.

London Indemnity Insurance

Mr. John Ovenden (Gravesend) asked when the Secretary of State for Trade expected the policyholders of London Indemnity Insurance to receive payments from the liquidators and/or the Policyholders' Protection Fund.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: The Official Receiver is the provisional liquidator of London Indemnity and General Insurance Co. Ltd. pending the hearing of the petition for the compulsory winding-up of the company. With the leave of the Court he is making payments to the policyholders under the terms of an indemnity on behalf of a consortium of life offices. A Scheme of Arrangement aimed at implementing proposals of the consortium for the benefit of policyholders is in course of preparation and as soon as possible the directions of the Court will be sought in relation to the scheme.

Milk powder surplus

Mr. Andrew Welsh (South Angus) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, what representations she had received concerning EEC plans to eliminate the skimmed milk powder surplus; and what effects these measures would have on the ice cream industry.

Mr. Maclennan replied: 'I have received representations about the community's present scheme for disposing of skimmed milk powder in animal feed, but none specifically from the ice cream industry. Measures to dispose of skimmed milk powder affecting the food manufacturing industry would be a matter for my Rt. Hon. Friend the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.'

Potato trade

Mrs. Helene Hayman (Welwyn and Hatfield) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, whether she had received the third monthly report from the Price Commission on distributors' margins in the potato trade; and whether she would make a statement.

Mrs. Williams replied: 'The Third Report of the Price Commission has now been received and I am arranging for copies to be placed in the Library. It finds some evidence that distributors' cash margins rose towards the end of April, mainly at the wholesale level. But the volume of potatoes handled was smaller so that the aggregate cash margin taken by distributors as a whole was probably lower. The Commission are looking at margins on imported potatoes, which will be covered in their next report.'

References to Price Commission

Mr. Ioan Evans (Aberdare) asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, what proposals she had for further references to the Price Commission.

Mrs. Williams: 'I am asking the Price Commission to examine and report on prices of and charges for the hire of, or related to, intruder alarm systems. I have had a number of letters on this subject from hon Members and also from small businesses and private users.'

Drinking glasses

Mr. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield): asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, if she had any intention of introducing legislation requiring that drinking glasses on licensed premises hold an exact legal measure.

Mr. Fraser: 'It is already a requirement under weights and measures legislation that glasses in which beer is served on licensed premises shall be of $\frac{1}{3}$ pint, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint or a multiple of $\frac{1}{2}$ pint capacity and shall be stamped by weights and measures inspectors before use, except where the beer is dispensed by a beer measuring instrument, is pre-packed or is a constituent of two or more liquids. I have no plans to introduce any amending legislation.'

Dispensing beer

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, if she was satisfied that the use of the traditional pub beer-engine, or handpump, is a satisfactory method of dispensing, in the interests of consumers; and if she will make it her policy that these interests would not suffer in the event of any legislation regarding legal measures.

Mr. Fraser: 'I am not aware of any current dissatisfaction with beer engines as devices for dispensing beer into glasses, nor have I plans to introduce legislation which would affect their use.'

Monitoring specific gravities

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection if she would explain the monitoring procedures by which her department ensures that the lowering of gravities in the brewing industry do not result in a reduction of the quality of the product, thereby infringing the price code.

Mr. Maclennan replied that it had not been considered necessary to go to the expense of monitoring specific gravities in order to enforce the Price Code. The relevant provision of the Code was well understood by brewers and the major companies had to pre-notify all proposed price increases to the Price Commission. But if the member had any reason to believe that the Price Code was being infringed in this way he would be glad to have the evidence examined.

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Technology News

National committee on computer networks

Eric Varley, Secretary of State, Department of Industry, has approved the establishment of a National Committee on Computer Networks, which will act as a co-ordinating body to advise on policy for their installation and operation, technical standards and the protection of the interests of users and private citizens.

Systems of linked computers are becoming increasingly important in public administration and in industrial corporations, universities and the computing service industry. The members of the committee will be drawn from the major users in these sectors, including the suppliers of computer networking equipment and systems, the Post Office, the Post Office Users' National Council, Trade Unions and the Department of Industry.

The chairman of the committee will be Dr. Jack Howlett, formerly Director of the Atlas Computer Laboratory of the Science Research Council. The committee will have a full-time secretariat consisting of a director, who will be an acknowledged expert in this field, and a technically qualified staff. The appointment of the director will be announced in due course.

The secretariat will aim to identify the main problem areas and make appropriate policy recommendations to the committee. It will also make use of existing centres in the UK which are capable of offering technical advice on many aspects of computer networks. These include the Post Office, National Physical Laboratory, Harwell, National Computing Centre and the Computer Aided Design Centre as well as some private sector organisations or consultants. The Secretariat will be located at the Rutherford Laboratory of the Science Research Council at Chilton in Oxfordshire.

The committee will report within one year on the main problem areas and on a recommended programme of activity.

Light vehicles for town centre deliveries

It is frequently suggested that heavy goods vehicles should be prohibited from operating in town centres, despite the penalties involved. A new report published by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory provides preliminary estimates of some of the effects of a ban on delivering and collecting in town centres (except at building sites) by goods vehicles over three tons unladen weight. It was assumed that operators would react by changing to vehicles just under three tons ULW, whilst continuing to use the same depots and maintaining the same levels of service. The results have enabled refinements to be made to the Swindon freight model, which is being used to make a fuller assessment of entry bans, taking into account other options.

Data were obtained from 48 companies, which together operated 20 per cent of the vehicles in the affected categories that stopped in central Swindon on a typical day in 1973. Information supplied by each operator about the area served and the number, size and frequency of drops was used in a computer programme to estimate the number of vehicles required and the weekly mileage per vehicle, both for vehicles of the size used at present and for vehicles just below three tons ULW.

The increase in transport costs was estimated at £3.2/ton which is 0.4 per cent of the average retail value of the goods.

The figures implied that there would be about four replacement vehicles (average gross weight 6.6 tons) for every three vehicles replaced (average gross weight 12.3 tons).

A copy of the full report, LR 710, may be obtained on written request from the Library, Transport and Road Research Laboratory, Old Wokingham Road, Crowthorne, Berks.

Roger Jefcoate, pioneer in applied technology for the handicapped, who is lecturing in America this month, where he will also be a guest of Dr. Rusk, US authority on rehabilitation of the disabled. Pictured here with two aids he has developed, Roger Jefcoate holds (left) a device which operates from the electricity mains. Push-button operated, it will supply a 10-minute supply of electricity to, eg a portable cooker, before switching off automatically, an advantage to the forgetful or handicapped. Right: a unit which automatically switches on electric light when darkness comes. The mechanism is unaffected by extraneous light, and also may have security applications.

A new unit designed by Chandor Ltd. of Hailsham to prevent the inhalation of powders such as talc into the lungs, when dusting rubber products. Specially designed dust guns are arranged inside the chamber through which the sheet rubber or cable passes. To prevent dust escaping, pressure within the chamber is reduced by withdrawing some of the air through a self-cleaning filter. The air/powder mixture never leaves the machine but at the end of the cycle settles back into a reservoir ready for use.

Materials handling in the small firm: a seminar in Nottingham

by Ray Parr, Manager, East Midlands Small Firms Information Centre, Nottingham

Engineering is one of the most important sectors of industry, accounting for over 20 per cent of manufacturing net output. Although – because of the wide diversity of trades that comprise the sector – it is difficult to generalise about the position occupied by small firms it is undoubtedly significant. The Bolton Report estimated that small firms (which it defined as those with up to 200 employees) represented some 94 per cent of all manufacturing enterprise. It follows that any improvement in efficiency will have significant implications for the performance of British industry and its position in the international setting.

A Report – 'Materials Handling Costs – a new look at manufacture' – which is to be published next month by HMSO presents the results of a pilot survey of materials handling costs by some 30 companies in the engineering industry. The survey, which was conducted by the National Materials Handling Centre on behalf of the Department of Industry's Committee for Materials Handling, indicates that none of the companies investigated was able to quantify the costs of its materials handling operations. The evidence points to a general low level of awareness of the real costs involved but suggests that in most cases there was considerable scope for reductions in materials handling costs through the adoption of improved techniques. The Report estimates that for the engineering and allied industries as a whole the potential savings could be as high as £90 million a year.

According to the National Materials Handling Centre at Cranfield, Bedfordshire, the potential savings in small firms are proportionately greater than in large companies. In order that small firms in the East Midlands may be alerted to these profit opportunities the East Midlands Small Firms Information Centre, in co-operation with the Small Business Centre at Trent Polytechnic and the Committee for Materials Handling, have arranged for a seminar with the title Materials Handling in the Small Firm to be held in Nottingham on 16 June. As its title indicates the seminar has been specifically designed to identify the needs of the smaller firm and to point out the scope for improvement in materials handling management in order to achieve reduction in costs, with the emphasis being on in-depth presentation of and discussion of case studies. The seminar will include speakers from National Materials Handling Centre and the Department's Warren Spring laboratory. The inclusive cost of the seminar will be £15 which will include a copy of the Report referred to above. Applications for places at the seminar should be addressed to Mr. T. M. Faulkner, Trent Polytechnic, Nottingham (tel. Nottingham 48248 ext. 2442).

Ink drying research

The Department of Industry is to sponsor a research programme into the mechanism of accelerated ink drying to assist the printing and printing machinery industries.

Bath University will conduct the research which will cost around £35,000. The aim of the project is to obtain a more complete understanding of the theoretical principles governing both hot and cold air methods of drying ink and so produce guidelines for increasing the performance and efficiency of future drier designs.

The information gathered during the programme will be made available to members of the printing, converting and equipment industries by way of a number of seminars, the first of which will be held later this year.

A management committee has been established to monitor and steer the progress of the project. Members of the committee are B. A. E. Burke (Burke Thermal Engineering Ltd.), D. Fletcher (Simon V.-K. Ltd.), G. H. Hutchinson (Croda Inks Ltd.) and A. D. Lott (Metal Box Co. Ltd.). Professor J. Black and H. Hardisty represent the University and representatives of the Department of Industry complete the committee.

Echoes from the eye

Ultrasonic holography is now being used at Moorfields to detect abnormalities of the eye.

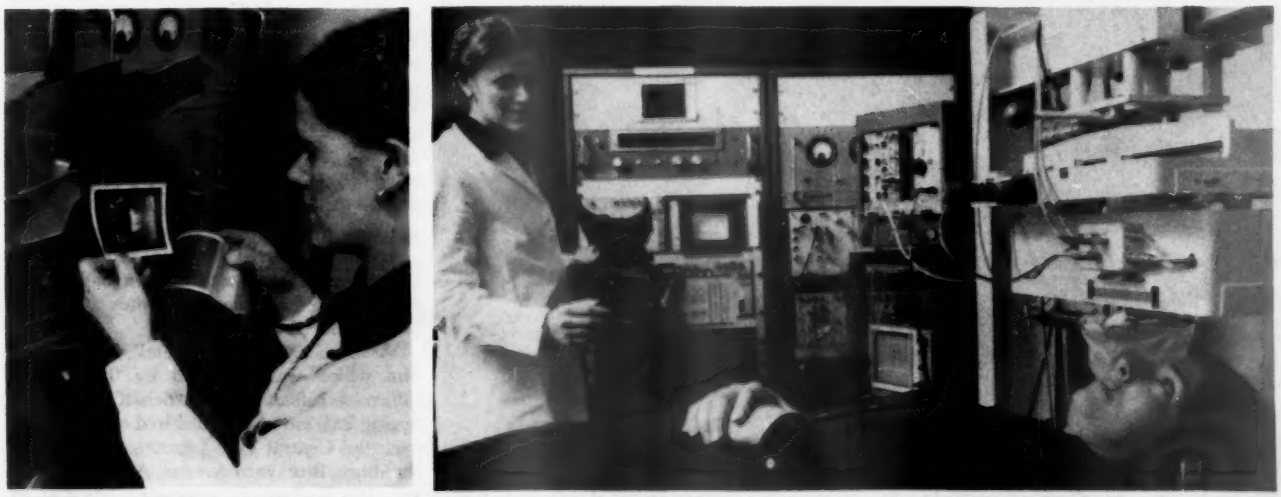
This advanced technique will be demonstrated for the first time at the Hospital Equipment and Health Services Exhibition, at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, 14-17 June.

The work at Moorfields is being carried out using equipment built by Harwell's Non-destructive Testing Centre. Ultrasonic holography is being used in conjunction with established ultrasonic methods, and A, B and C scans are available on the same equipment. (A-scan is a range in line of sight, B-scan is a plan display of any cross-section and C-span is a plan display at any depth.)

After two years' clinical evaluation the Moorfields researchers believe the B-scan facility of the equipment could be developed from the laboratory stage into a form suitable for use in hospitals. The B-scan, linear and in real-time, has the advantage of showing, in 150 milliseconds, plan or laterial sections of the eye. This has significant advantages over the more usual B-scans, in which the transducer is moved manually to build up the scan, and eye movement can blur the image.

Holograms and C-scans display the coronal plane of the eye in the orbit, a particularly useful aid to surgeons removing orbital tumours. Holograms give volume information in one scan, while a C-scan displays an individual plane.

The new technique is thought to be of use mainly in selected eye hospitals which deal with orbital conditions.



Ultrasonic holography equipment, developed at Harwell, being used at Moorfields Eye Hospital for ophthalmic diagnostics in which a three-dimensional ultrasonic image of the eye is obtained.

Oil slicks – dispersing the problem

Spraying dispersant on an oil slick at sea. Warren Spring Laboratory provides advice, training and R and D backing for both chemical and mechanical means of dealing with oil pollution.

By 1980 oil consumption will rise to about 5,000 million m tons per year. Of this amount it is estimated that almost 2 million tons will be lost each year to pollute the world's seas. Now a new film, showing some of the work carried out by Dr. Cormack and John Nightingale at Warren Spring Laboratory helps to put the problem into perspective.

For Western Europe the first historic large-scale accident was the *Torrey Canyon* disaster. As her cargo of 117,000 tons spilled out, both the French and British coasts were spoiled.

After that, no county with a coastline could afford to be complacent. The government formed a special division at Warren Spring Laboratory to develop and advise on safe ways of clearing oil from the sea and the beaches.

Since then much has been learned about the behaviour of oil, its various types, and the most efficient ways of dealing with it. Crude oil is a complex substance, but wherever the source, any oil that is spilled into the sea has to be tackled immediately. By using a chemical dispersant it can be broken down into fine droplets, so that bacteria and other micro-organisms that occur naturally in the sea can attack and absorb it.

The first line of defence must be when it is still at sea, before it is allowed to drift ashore. Occasionally it may be possible to contain it physically and recover it, but usually an ever-widening 'slick' forms. That can best be tackled with dispersants, using agitation boards to ensure effective chemical action.

If oil reaches the coastline, dispersants can still be very effective. Beaches obviously vary a great deal, but experience from incidents all over the world together with research have made it possible to develop equipment and techniques for using dispersants in almost all situations.

The beach can be carefully sprayed just before the tide comes in and the oil broken down into a dispersion. This is then washed away by the tide and, once at sea, it is attacked by micro-organisms, leaving the beach clean and undamaged.

Oil stranded on rocks, seawalls, and other structures can be tackled by using another method developed at Warren Spring Laboratory. They apply dispersant mixed with an additive. This forms a gel that clings to the oil and attacks it so that after 24 hours the treated wall can be hosed down.

Techniques still being developed involve surface film chemicals, which can reverse the oil's natural tendency to expand on water. It is possible now to encircle and invisibly control a slick: a small quantity of chemical applied with a spray forces the oil into its smallest possible area. Remaining in this way for up to 16 hours, it can then be dispersed or recovered physically in the normal way.

Surface film chemicals also make it possible to provide advance protection of beaches when oil is expected to come in with the tide. Oil can't sink into the treated beach and is stranded when the tide goes out. Then it can be removed before the next high tide. Warren Spring have found that, by using this simple recovery technique, stranded oil can be completed washed off a beach and separated from the water by filter material, leaving the beach clean and uncontaminated. The testing of the chemicals and equipment involved carried out by Warren Spring is now accepted by many governments around the world.

Protection of the marine environment from the harmful effects of any substance, including oil-control chemicals, is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. At the Fisheries Laboratory at Burnham-on-Crouch, marine biologists determine the toxicity of oil dispersants to selected marine organisms. Research and development has now produced chemicals that are many times less toxic to marine life than those in use at the time of the *Torey Canyon*.

The North Sea's big offshore fields pose serious problems, where a major accident could result in very large quantities of oil escaping.

To match this threat a new armoury has been developed, such as the skimmer. It can recover oil continuously from the sea's surface when it is trapped by an inflatable boom. Full-scale testing of the new technology, like all North Sea engineering, is vital. Typical of the engineering challenge, is the large Ekofisk Field. From Ekofisk North Sea crude has a 200-mile journey by submarine pipeline to the new terminal at Teesside.

Ballast-water receiving tanks have now been installed and will receive ballast discharge from the tankers when they come in to pick up oil.

'A Clean and Pleasant Land', a 33-minute film which was produced by the Central Office of Information on behalf of Warren Spring Laboratory can be hired or purchased from the Central Film Library, Government Buildings, Bromyard Avenue, Acton, London W3 7JB or from its associated libraries in Scotland and Wales, purchase price £95.

Scientists from Warren Spring Laboratory spraying dispersant on to an oil contaminated beach. Taken from 'Clean and Pleasant Land', a new film, produced for the Department of Industry by the Central Office of Information which describes different methods of coping with oil pollution.

BOTB News

Royal visit to firm taking part in Export Year

One of the first firms in the north west to register as taking part in Export Year, Berisfords Ltd., Congleton, received a visit from HRH The Duke of Kent, a patron of Export Year and vice chairman designate of the BOTB, and Mr. S. D. Wilks, chief executive of the BOTB.

Berisfords, which manufacture ribbons, trimmings, woven and printed labels, and lampshades, have a staff of 725, and exports represent approximately 21 per cent of its business. 'For the first time we are hoping to achieve £1 million worth of exports this year,' said Stan Smith, export director of the firm, and organiser of its Export Year.

Since the announcement of Export Year by Sir Frederick Catherwood, chairman of the BOTB, on 5 May, over 220 companies in the north west have expressed an interest in taking part. These companies are producers of both capital and consumer goods, and others are involved in the service industries.

The Duke of Kent talking to Mr. S. Sebire managing director of Berisfords Ltd. During his tour of the company the Duke was presented with a basket of trimmings made at their Bugglaughton Mill.

Industrialists promote exports to Southern hemisphere

With the backing of the BOTB and in association with relevant trade organisations, joint venture groups will take part in three international exhibitions during the coming weeks in Sydney and Melbourne.

The first of these, Pakprint, opened in Sydney on 31 May and closed today 4 June. The second, The International Computer Electronics Telecommunications Instrument and Automation Exhibition (CETIA), opens in Melbourne from 7-14 June; while the International Catering Trade Fair will be held in Sydney from 4-8 June.

In addition a trade mission of Scottish industrialists, supported by the BOTB and organised with the collaboration of the Scottish Council Development and Industry, has been promoting their products in New Zealand since 22 May and will be meeting new and old customers in Australia from the end of May until 10 June. They represent a wide selection of Scotland's industry.

US INDUSTRY IN BRITAIN

A business research study by Professor J H Dunning and R D Pearce

In the last 25 years the direct capital stake of US companies in the UK grew on average of 12.4%, nearly twice the rate of growth of the gross national product.

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Exhibitions and Fairs

Impressive British effort at modern technology exhibition

From C. V. Anson, British Embassy, Tehran: The importance attached to attracting sophisticated technology to Iran was indicated by the fact that the Prime Minister of Iran, His Excellency Amir Abbas Hoveyda, opened the International Modern Technology Fair held in Tehran between 28 April and 5 May.

This was the first modern technology exhibition to be held in Iran and it encompassed a very diverse group of products including computers, scientific instruments and process control equipment at one end of the spectrum and the very latest in luxury bathroom fittings at the other. Immediately after the opening ceremony, the Prime Minister of Iran visited the British pavilion, which was designed and co-ordinated by the BOTB. Altogether 26 British firms took part in the exhibition, 23 of them grouped in the British pavilion and three exhibiting independently. An impressive range of British technology was represented, covering process and analysis equipment for the oil, gas and petrochemical industries, scientific instruments, power tools, mechanical handling equipment, machinery for the textile industry and, last but not least, the latest 2903 ICL Computer.

One did not have to be particularly pro-British to recognise that the British pavilion was very striking indeed. Our stands, picked out in a crisp red, white and blue theme, stood out clearly from the rest of the exhibition as a homogeneous and attractive grouping which certainly helped to draw visitors.

Rotostock International's pipe cutting demonstrations attracted particular attention. Altogether 210,000 people visited the modern technology exhibition. Many of these were students and families – for trade fairs in Iran are a popular day's outing – but nevertheless British exhibitors were pleased with the number of professional visitors and agents who visited them at the exhibition. The British Ambassador hosted a reception for the exhibitors and their contacts on Monday, 3 May which everyone agreed had been useful.

All in all, British firms, both those taking part in the British pavilion and those exhibiting independently, seemed satisfied with their participation. But the acid test for this fair, as for any other, remained the amount of business that individual British firms had been able to do and here the results were also satisfactory. The 26 British firms taking part received firm orders totalling over £500,000 and they put the value of potential long-term business likely to result from serious inquiries received during the exhibition at £2.5 million.

International character at Insterstoff made it 'worthwhile'

From R. Weatherburn, British Consulate-General, Frankfurt. Since its inception almost 17 years ago Interstoff like other Frankfurt fairs has developed a very international character and there is little doubt that it has become the most important event of its kind. On this occasion almost 80 per cent of the 740 direct exhibitors were non-German and from 20 countries. The largest foreign contingents were from France and Italy, both with 149 firms, followed by Great Britain with 98.

The fair, which got off to a lively start, attracted some 23,000 visitors from 83 countries – an increase of 6 per cent compared with last year. According to the fair organisers foreign visitors – 61 per cent of the total – accounted for this increase. The largest number of trade buyers came from France followed by the United Kingdom. Buyers from the Middle East countries were also much in evidence.

Of the 98 British firms exhibiting 69 were grouped in two joint ventures which were sponsored by the BOTB and the National Wool Textile Export Corporation. The larger of the two ventures, the Pan-Textile Group, displayed a very wide range of colourful womenswear fabrics which attracted a great deal of attention. On this occasion the results achieved by members of this group differed quite sharply, some exhibitors were very pleased and described the fair as one of the best in recent years, whereas the results achieved by other firms in the same group undoubtedly fell short of expectations.

German buyers visiting the joint venture stands at Frankfurt.

It would be difficult to pick out any one cloth as having done particularly well but it would be fair to say that co-ordinate fabrics in many combinations and colours are still very popular as are the small flower prints and stripes. Tartan fabrics were as popular as ever and exhibitors of imitation fur also did well.

Exhibitors in the menswear joint venture, 25 in all, generally enjoyed a very good fair: several firms booked more business in the first two days than throughout any of the previous three Interstoffs. At the close of the fair the majority of the firms in this group expressed a high degree of satisfaction with the results achieved.

A success? Well, it will be months before any of the participants will really know but the majority of exhibitors left for home feeling that it had all been worthwhile.

Arthur Organ packs them in the aisles at Utrecht

Some of the British stands at Macropak in Utrecht.

From G. J. C. Pirnie, Second Secretary Commercial, British Embassy, The Hague: 'At one time our stand was so crowded I was having to process customer inquiries in the aisle in front of the stand'. Not all the 19 participants in the joint venture at Macropak, The International Packaging Exhibition which took place at Utrecht from 10 to 15 May, were kept as busy as the sales manager of Arthur Organ Packaging Machinery Co. Ltd., but most of them were well pleased with the number of serious inquiries received.

Of course the reasons why firms participate in exhibitions such as Macropak vary enormously. But whatever their reasons for being there were, it became abundantly clear, talking to the 19 firms in the joint venture (organised by the BOTB and the Institute of Packaging) towards the end of the exhibition, that for firms thinking seriously about selling on the continent, participation in specialised exhibitions such as Macropak, is essential.

Macropak is generally recognised as being the second most important packaging exhibition in Europe after Interpack at Dusseldorf, and although the total number of visitors was down slightly, of the total of 22,000 visitors this year, 3,500 were from abroad.

For some firms such as Baker Perkins participation was seen almost solely as a customer relations exercise. Others were there to back up their local agents or to find agents. The small firm Eagle Packaging and Printing Ltd., for example, received inquiries from potential agents in France, Belgium, Germany and Austria. Bowater Containers Ltd. had inquiries from about 10 firms seeking their agency for the Netherlands in addition to inquiries from potential agents from Denmark and Sweden.

As one sales representative said 'I just do not understand why more British firms do not come out to fairs like this. The advantages are obvious once you are here'.

Compec goes to Europe

From M. W. Hewitt, Commercial Department, Brussels: The very successful Compec Exhibition, normally seen in London, was brought to Europe for the first time when it opened in Brussels on 18 May for three days.

A total of 78 companies took part, exhibiting small computers, peripheral equipment, systems and aids to computer use efficiency. There were 28 British companies taking part in a British joint venture which was organised by the BOTB and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The British stands, the design and layout of which attracted favourable comment, were well placed in the centre of the hall.

As one would expect for a highly specialised exhibition, the number of visitors was not high, totalling in all some 4,000. Visitors to the British stands were reported as being virtually all professionally concerned with the use of computer equipment. A high proportion of visitors were from neighbouring countries, particularly the Netherlands. Other foreign visitors came from the USA, Japan, Greece, Turkey, and Israel.

Billing Machines Ltd. were satisfied with a good level of serious inquiries, with particular interest centred on their 1,146 disc contoller and 7,808 eight channel asynchronous serial interfaces. Marconi Rada's stand featured an operational integrated modular display system based on a locus 16 local processor, known as Digilux. The system illustrated air traffic control operations and attracted civilian and military experts. The Computer Aided Design Centre demonstrated their general purpose graphics package, GINO-F, which has already been adopted by over 1,000 organisations throughout the world. They reported a satisfactory level of serious inquiries.

It is not easy to estimate the amount of business done so soon after the exhibition as this complex type of product is usually purchased after the customer has made a careful study of how his organisation can best benefit from the machine or equipment under consideration. Nevertheless the total value of orders expected to materialise is approximately £175,000. There also took place on the exhibition premises a series of lectures on various aspects of computer technology ie back-up storage, data capture, data processing, minicomputer system building and terminal computing.

To sum up, Compec proved valuable in demonstrating in the heart of Europe the efficient imaginative and highly sophisticated equipment and systems British companies have to offer.

Participants well satisfied with Hanover Fair

From P. L. F. Edwards, Vice Consul (Commercial), Hanover: The 30th Hanover Fair was opened on 28 April by the Federal German Economics Minister, Dr. Hans Fridrichs, in the Hauptrestaurant on the fair grounds before a very large audience.

As in previous years, the event provided an international reflection of applied modern technology and at the same time an insight into the likely trends of development. A total of 4,777 direct exhibitors and 798 represented companies from 42 countries, and over 490,000 visitors were attracted to the fair.

Once more, the United Kingdom was the most strongly represented foreign exhibitor with 184 direct exhibitors, followed by France and Italy. Of the UK exhibitors, 138 British firms co-operated in 11 joint ventures (including a group exhibiting on the 'EXPO-CLIMA' – the European specialised exhibition for refrigeration, air conditioning, air-handling and drying). These joint ventures were organised by the appropriate trade associations and the BOTB. The British joint venture stands were particularly attractive due to some interesting re-design.

European Community News

Not the time for theoretical schemes of union: Roy Hattersley

During a speech in Newcastle on 25 May Roy Hattersley told his audience, 'This is not the moment in the life of the community for attempts to create wholly theoretical schemes for union and unity based on a wholly impractical desire to bring Europe together at a speed which is certainly impossible and probably undesirable.'

The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, who was speaking to the socialist group of the European parliament, went on, 'This is not the time for discussion of plans on monetary integration and commercial harmonisation which are arbitary, unnecessary and unworkable.

'Socialists within the community have to be concerned with policies which are necessary, practical and most important of all, relevant to the lives of the men and women we serve and represent. I believe socialists within the community should have four major targets.

The first of these, he said, was the community's need to more clearly represent the interests of its consumers through a thorough and constant revision of agricultural policies.

Then 'through the social and regional fund, through the more effective operation of the European Investment Bank and through a more positive attempt to make agricultural policy help the poorer areas, we must even out the great disparities of regional prosperity within our boundaries.'

Thirdly, 'through extensions of the Lomé Convention we need to provide aid and preferential trade for those developing countries we have largely neglected.

And 'above all, through the coordinated action of our governments we need to conceive and implement a strategy to combat unemployment – a disease which affects all of us to a greater or lesser degree.'

Delegates from 55 countries at Lomé assembly

Exports of sugar and beef to the community, the Unctad meeting in Nairobi and the North/South dialogue were among the main items for discussion during the constituent meeting of the consultative assembly of the Lomé Convention in Luxembourg from 1-3 June.

Ninety-two delegates from the 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific Lomé signatory states, together with 92 members of the European assembly from all nine community member states, attended the meeting in the chamber of the parliament's Robert Schuman Building.

A constituent sitting on Tuesday morning elected the president and vice-president of the assembly and members and chairman of a joint-committee, and also drew up rules of procedure. This was followed by a formal opening ceremony attended by the Grand Duke and Duchess of Luxembourg.

Current problems in ACP/EEC relations and the work of the interim committee before the Lomé Convention came into effect on 1 April, were discussed by Mr. G. A. King, Guyana's Minister of Trade, and Gaston Thorn, Prime Minister of Luxembourg who was representing the ACP/EEC council of ministers. The ensuing debate was also attended by Claude Cheysson, EEC commissioner with responsibility for overseas development.

The main provisions of the Lomé Convention – described by commissioner Cheysson as an 'agreement unique in history' – are: free access to the community without reciprocity of most ACP products: a stabilisation fund (stabex) to safeguard ACP export revenue and a sugar agreement; economic aid including approximately £1,500 million from the European development fund and £200 million from the European Investment Bank; industrial and technological co-operation; joint institutions. The convention embraces 55 countries (almost half the membership of the UN) covering a population of some 510 million.

British members of the European parliament in the consultative assembly are:

Betty Boothroyd (Lab),	Tom Normanton (Con),
Lord Castle (Lab),	Lord Reay (Con),
Tam Dalyell (Lab),	Lord St. Oswald (Con),
Gwyneth Dunwoody (Lab),	James Scott-Hopkins (Con),
Sir Geoffrey de Freitas (Lab),	Michael Shaw (Con),
ElaineKellet-Bowman (Con),	Jim Spicer (Con),
	Lord Walston (Lab).

Two foreign councils in June

Five meetings of the EEC council of ministers are planned for June, starting with a first meeting of foreign ministers this week (31 May-1 June). A second foreign council is due to take place towards the end of the month on 28-29 June.

Details of the June councils were given by Roy Hattersley, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, in the House of Commons on 26 May.

Mr. Hattersley explained that as part of the follow-up to the informal meeting of foreign ministers on 14-15 May, ministers at the foreign affairs council on 1 June were expected to resume considerations of the Tindemans report and direct elections to the European assembly. They were also likely to discuss passport union.

On 31 May, he said, ministers would sign the commercial co-operation agreement concluded in March this year between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the EEC. They would also probably consider commission proposals for an agreement with Iran; the community's external financial commitments; financial aid internal regulations in relation to the Maghreb countries (Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria) and Malta; discussion on Spain and Cyprus sherry. Ministers would also consider the sitings of Jet (the joint European Torus Project) and preparations for association councils with Greece and Turkey.

At their second council later in the month, foreign ministers would resume discussions on the overall Mediterranean approach and relations with the CMEA (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance). At both council meetings ministers would consider the problems posed by the prospect of 200-mile fishery limits and the current state of work in the four commissions set up following the conference on international economic co-operation.

Energy ministers, Mr. Hattersley went on, were due to meet on 10 June and would resume consideration of the energy policy guidelines adopted by the European council on 1-2 December last year, as well as measures to be taken in the event of oil supply difficulties.

Resumed discussions on imports of New Zealand butter in the period 1978/80 would be on the agenda at the agricultural council on 21-22 June. Amended arrangements for beef imports would probably be considered.

Finally, Mr. Hattersley told the House of Commons that social affairs ministers were due to meet on 29-30 June and they were expected to have before them draft directives on the safeguarding of employees' rights in the case of mergers and on the education of migrant workers' children. They would also consider uniform payment of family benefits and might consider the outcome of the tripartite economic and social conference to be held on 24 June, which is expected to focus on the employment situation.

Community transit: changes in operation

Changes were made in the operation of the community transit system at a recent meeting in Brussels between the community, Austria and Switzerland. These changes affect sealing, use of TIR and the period of time within which movements under the full community transit procedure (T1, T2, T3 documents) must be completed.

Sealing

From 1 July 1976, in order to expedite the movement of goods across customs borders, all containers or vehicles moving under the full community transit procedure (T1, T2, T3) which will enter or cross the territory of Austria or Switzerland should be presented to customs for official sealing before they leave the United Kingdom.

Traders should ensure that containers or vehicles are presented to customs, ready for sealing, in time for their intended departure. If there are any doubts about the suitability of containers or vehicles for sealing traders should contact the customs at the place where export formalities are to be completed.

Use of TIR

On 1 January 1976 the option to use TIR for intra-community movements was withdrawn, but it has now been agreed that to facilitate trade interests and documentation TIR may be used for movements which start in an EEC member state and are for split delivery both in a third country, ie a country other than an EEC member state, Austria or Switzerland, and in an EEC member state, Austria and/or Switzerland. Community transit movement certificates may be authenticated for that part of the goods in such combined movements which are for delivery in the EEC, Austria, and/or Switzerland.

TIR may also continue to be used for movements starting or finishing in a third country.

For movements which are for split delivery in either or both an EEC member state, Austria or Switzerland TIR may be used but community transit movement certificates will not be authenticated.

For example:

Route	TIR procedure
1 UK – France – Spain	TIR may be used, with movement certificates for goods delivered in France.
2 UK – Austria* – Yugoslavia	TIR may be used, with movement certificates for goods delivered in Austria.
3 UK – France – Austria*	TIR may be used but movement certificates will *not* be authenticated.

* Or Switzerland.

The community transit system is of course available for movements within the community and between the community and Austria and Switzerland.

Time limit

Normally a 30-day time limit is specified for the completion of a full procedure community transit movement (T1, T2, T3) but experience has shown that movements are completed in a much shorter period. The standard time limit for completing movements is therefore to be reduced from 30 days to 14 days. Customs have the discretion to provide for a shorter, or longer period, in appropriate circumstances.

Exports of copper, lead and aluminium scrap to third countries

Regulations (EEC) 3342/75 and 570/76 established quotas for exports in 1976 of copper, lead and aluminium scrap from the European Communities to third countries and a notice published in *Trade and Industry* on 21 November 1975 (page 524) invited exporters to apply for licences for specified materials within the quotas.

A further allocation is to be made and applications will be considered for exports in the six months ending 31 December 1976 of the following materials:

1 copper ashes and residues (tariff heading ex 26.03) in the form of copper scale
2 copper and copper alloy scrap (tariff heading ex 74.01) in the forms of:
   a enamelled copper hair wire
   b contaminated nickel silver in the form of:
      (i) cutlery or tableware contaminated by plating or solder; or
      (ii) electrical contacts, springs and valves contaminated by solder
   c beryllium copper
3 aluminium scrap, (tariff heading ex 76.01)
4 lead scrap (tariff heading ex 78.01)

Applications should include details of type, value and destination and an estimate of any balance of tonnage on existing licences held for similar material likely to remain unusued by 30 June 1976 and should be received in Export Licensing Branch, Department of Trade, 15/20 Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB by 22 June 1976. Any received after that date may be too late for inclusion in this allocation.

Any licence from the previous allocation for the period ending 30 June 1976 on which a balance of the tonnage licensed remains unused will be re-validated to expire on 31 December 1976 if returned to Export Licensing Branch at the above address.

More on the EEC

Information on EEC matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of 'Trade and Industry'. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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ATA carnets

In the answer to a question about documentation for overseas fairs (EEC – your questions answered, *Trade and Industry*, 14 May 1976, page 436) Austria should have been included in the list of non-EEC countries for which ATA carnets may be issued.

Summaries of proceedings before the European court

A number of cases appearing before the European court of justice have an interest in the UK.

Summaries of the judgements given are prepared by the court and lists of those of interest in this country will be published periodically in *Trade and Industry*. The first list appears below.

Case 40/75: Societe des Produits Bertrand v commission

This case concerned an action brought for damages in respect of injury allegedly caused by a breach of duty by the commission, in not instituting the procedure laid down by the treaty to ensure that Italy should abolish the aid granted by it to Italian manufacturers of meal and pasta products.

Case 45/75: Rewe Zentrale Lebensmittel- Grosshandel v Hauptzollamt Landau Pfalz

This case involves the compatibility of the rules of the treaty regarding state monopolies with the provisions of law laying down the excise duty in the Federal Republic of Germany on imported alcohol.

Case 46/75: IBC Importazione Bestiano Carni v commission

An action concerning the payment of various sums by way of equalisation between the import charge and the monetary compenatory amounts that apply for the import of cuts of beef, veal and livestock.

Case 52/75: commission v Italian Republic

Court Proceedings brought by the applicant for non-compliance with a council directive laying down common rules and requirements with regard to the marketing of vegetable seed.

Case 55/75: Balken Import Export GmbH v Hauptzollamt Berlin

The case concerns the compatibility with EEC law of a levy (a monetary compensatory charge) on imports from third countries of cheese of sheep's milk, especially in view of the exemptions under a commission regulation of May 1973 for imports of other types of cheese from payment.

Case 59/75: Pubblico Ministerio v Manghera and others

An action concerning the interpretation of Article 37 of the treaty with regard to the importation of tobacco into Italy and to the scope and direct applicability of the former article.

Case 60/75: Russo v Aima

As in Case 40/75 (Bertrand v commission – see above) the court had been called upon to examine questions concerning the interpretation of the common organisation of the market in cereals in relation to anti-inflation measures adopted by the Italian Government.

Case 63/75: Fonderies Roubaix SA v Societe Nouvelle des Fonderies A. Roux

This case concerns a sub-concession agreement for distribution of iron castings in one member state that are imported from another and whether this agreement is subject to publication procedures under Article 4 of Regulation 17/62 of the council implementing the treaty provisions on competition.

Case 65/75 and cases 88-90/75: Riccardo Tasca, Sadam and others

Four references to the court of justice for interpretation of the provisions of Regulation 18 of 1967 in the common organisation of the market in sugar and provisions of the treaty on the abolition of quantitative restrictions between member states.

Joined cases 67-85/75: Societe Lesieur Cotelle and others v commission

Action brought against the commission for elimination of compensatory amounts for oils and fats.

Case 87/75: Concernia Daniele Bresciani v Amministrazzione Italiana delle Finanze

An action relating to a claim for prohibition under Article 13(2) of the EEC treaty of a charge levied for compulsory veterinary inspection on imported animal products (in this case hides) into Italy, and the interpretation of the concept of charges having equivalent effect to customs duties on imports contained in the EEC treaty and the Yaoundé Convention.

Case 91/75: Hauptzollamt Gottingen v Miritz

Action concerning the interpretation of Articles 12 (elimination of custom duties and charges having equivalent effect) and 37 (adjustment of state monopolies) of the treaty with regard to the alcohol sector.

Case 94/75: Suddeutsche Zucker-Aktiengesellschaft v Hauptzollamt Mannheim

Action concerning a referral to the court of questions on the interpretation of a commission regulation laying down detailed rules for the application of the quota system for sugar.

Case 95/75: Effem v Hauptzollamt Luneberg

Proceedings initiated against an assessment of levy for the export of preparations used in foodstuffs for domestic animals covered by two different tariff headings.

Joined Cases 98 and 99/75: Caistens Keramik and Firma, August Hoff v Oberfinanzdurektion Frankfurt am Main

This action concerns the interpretation of the term 'common pottery' as a criterion for classification under the common customs tariff.

Case 108/75: Balsamo v Institut National d'Assurance Maladie-Invalidite

Action concerning a claim for an invalidity pensions where two countries are liable.

New EC Legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations and decision which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

Live plants and products of the flower growing industry. Decision 76/433/EEC authorising member states to approve for marketing reproductive material of certain forest species satisfying less stringent requirements (*Official Journal* L122, 8 May 1976).

Regulation (EEC) 1155/76 amending Annex II to Regulation (EEC) 316/68 as regards quality standards for asparagus fern (*Official Journal* L130, 19 May 1976).

Cereals and rice. The *Official Journal* L130, 19 May 1976, contains the texts of the following regulations:

Regulation (EEC) 1143/76 amending Regulation (EEC) 2727/75 on the common organisation of the market in cereals.

Regulation (EEC) 1144/76 on the list of community regions receiving aid for durum wheat and fixing the amount of such aid.

Regulation (EEC) 1145/76 laying down rules for determining the intervention centres for cereals.

Regulation (EEC) 1146/76 on particular and special intervention measures for cereals.

Regulation (EEC) 1147/76 on aid for durum wheat.

Regulation (EEC) 1148/76 fixing, for the 1976/77 marketing year, the protective amount to be included in the threshold price for milled rice.

Regulation (EEC) 1149/76 fixing, for the 1976/77 marketing year, the monthly price increases for paddy rice and husked rice.

Regulation (EEC) 1150/76 fixing, for the 1976/77 marketing year, the monthly price increases for cereals, wheat and rye flour and wheat groats and meal.

Regulation (EEC) 1151/76 fixing cereal and rice prices for the 1976/77 marketing year.

Regulation (EEC) 1157/76 amending for the sixth time Regulation (EEC) 2042/75 on special detailed rules for the application of the system of import and export licences for cereals and rice.

Fruit and vegetables. Regulation (EEC) 1156/76 fixing for the 1976 marketing year the reference prices for cherries (*Official Journal* L130, 19 May 1976).

Cattle, beef and veal. Regulation (EEC) 1179/76 amending the arrangements for imports in beef and veal originating in certain African, Caribbean and Pacific states provided for in Regulation (EEC) 3328/75 (*Official Journal* L132, 21 May 1976).

Harmonisation of legislation

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L122, 8 May 1976, contains the texts of the following directives:

Agricultural or forestry tractors. Directive 76/432/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the braking devices of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors.

Further information: Department of Industry, Vehicle Division, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN, tel. 01-211 3601.

Wire-ropes, chains and hooks. Directive 76/434/EEC adapting to technical progress Directive 73/361/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the certification and marking of wire-ropes, chains and hooks.

Further information: Health and Safety Executive HSG/A, Baynards House, 1 Chepstow Place, London W2, tel. 01-299 3456, ext. 125.

Commercial policy

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L131, 20 May 1976, contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 1170/76 deleting certain products from the annex to Regulation (EEC) 2603/69 establishing common rules for exports. Products falling within subheading 28.38 ex A II of the common customs tariff are deleted from the annex to Regulation (EEC) 2603/69.

Economic Indicators of the EEC

These tables have been prepared for the convenience of users who do not have access to the sources themselves; international publications (as indicated) have been used, supplemented by later reports where possible. In addition to the member states of the EEC, the United States and Japan have been included for comparison.

The form of presentation adopted – indicators by subject – is for convenience only, and it must not be assumed that the indicators in the same table for different countries are strictly comparable. An attempt has been made to indicate major differences of definition, but the coverage and methods of collection vary considerably; this is partly due to different administrative procedures in various countries. Fuller details may be obtained from the sources indicated, and from the national publications of the countries concerned.

At extensive bibliography – 'Sources of Statistics: 2. The European Economic Community' – which lists publications in the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library of the Department of Trade, is obtainable on request to the library at Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 368). 'Statistical News' No. 21 (May 1973), published by the Central Statistical Office, contains a selected bibliography of statistical publications of the commission of the European communities.

TABLE 1 Industrial Production (Excluding construction) Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium	Luxembourg	France[1]	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	EEC[3]	*United States*	*Japan*
Weights in EEC	3.9	0.3	18.1	39.9	0.6	13.3	4.5	19.4	100.0	—	—
Weights in total	1.3	0.1	6.0	13.2	0.2	4.4	1.5	6.4	33.1	*43.3*	*11.9*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	103	99	104	102	105	100	106	100	102	*100*	*103*
1972	109	103	112	106	109	104	111	102	106	*108*	*110*
1973	116	115	120	113	119	114	118	111	115	*118*	*127*
1974	120	119	123	112	123	119	121	108	116	*117*	*124*
1975	108	93	113	105	115	108	115	103	107 (e)	*107*	*111*
1974 1st quarter	122	124	125	115	127	123	122	105	116	*117*	*130*
2nd quarter	122	119	126	113	124	125	122	109	117	*118*	*127*
3rd quarter	120	120	126	111	121	119	123	110	118	*118*	*122*
4th quarter	116	113	118	109	119	111	120	107	111	*114*	*115*
1975 1st quarter	111	103	114	103	116	110	117	107	109	*106*	*108*
2nd quarter	109	92	111	103	114	107	114	101	105	*103*	*110*
3rd quarter	103	82	111	101	114	106	111	101	104	*107*	*113*
4th quarter	108	95	114	105	116	110	119	101	109	*110*	*113*
1976 1st quarter			120 (e)			113		103			
1974 December	111	107	114	106		108	116	104	108	*110*	*112*
1975 January	113	104	115	104		110	116	108	108	*107*	*107*
February	111	101	115	105		113	116	107	109	*104*	*105*
March	109	102	112	105		108	118	105	108	*103*	*105*
April	111	93	113	100		109	113	103	105	*103*	*109*
May	105	84	109	104		103	114	100	105	*103*	*110*
June	111	96	112	102		109	114	100	106	*104*	*111*
July	101	90	110	97		110	109	101	103	*105*	*114*
August	100	61	110	102		98	111	99	103	*107*	*112*
September	107	96	114	104		110	114	101	106	*109*	*114*
October	109	89	112	104		110	116	102	108	*109*	*114*
November	110	98	117	106		112	122	102	109	*110*	*112*
December	107	98	120	105		107	120	100	109	*111*	*114*
1976 January	111	97	119	105		109 (e)	121	102	111 (e)	*112*	*116*
February	114	98	119 (e)	109		114 (e)	120	103	112 (e)	*113*	*118*
March			121 (e)	109 (e)		116 (e)	116 (e)	102		*113*	*120 (e)*
April										*114 (e)*	
% change latest three months:											
On previous three months	1.8	3.5	2.9	2.5	1.8	3.0	−0.3	1.0	2.8	*2.1*	*4.1*
On a year earlier	−0.9	−6.1	5.0	2.9	−2.5	2.4	2.0	−4.1	2.2	*9.7*	*11.7*

[1] Excluding clothing, wood products and furniture. [2] Mining and manufacturing only. [3] Excluding Denmark. (e) Estimated.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 2 Unemployment seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1,2]	Den-mark[1,2]	France[2,4]	German F.R.[5]	Ireland[1]	Italy[6]	Nether-lands[2,5]	Great Britain[5]	*United States*[6]	*Japan*[7]
1971	100	125	129	126	100	100	135	129	*122*	*111*
1972	123	125	145	166	114	113	235	142	*118*	*119*
1973	130	84	150	184	104	109	239	102	*105*	*107*
1974	148	186	190	391	114	91	293	101	*124*	*117*
1975	249	430	321	721	179	106	424	157	*192*	*177*
1974 1st quarter	131	81	168	317	102	89	263	96	*112*	*107*
2nd quarter	137	135	169	344	110	86	270	97	*113*	*111*
3rd quarter	151	208	181	409	117	90	302	104	*126*	*118*
4th quarter	172	323	235	547	133	98	337	107	*150*	*143*
1975 1st quarter	199	420	279	684	164	90	378	123	*183*	*152*
2nd quarter	239	423	319	720	179	118	413	143	*198*	*180*
3rd quarter	269	410	335	745	186	106	450	170	*196*	*196*
4th quarter	296	463	350	766	190	113	459	190	*194*	*200*
1976 1st quarter								207		
1974 November	172	327	240	566	133		343	109	*147*	*142*
December	179	338	252	548	140		354		*162*	*156*
1975 January	186	426	267	666	157	90	367	120	*184*	*149*
February	197	403	278	693	167		378	125	*180*	*151*
March	213	434	292	693	169		389	128	*190*	*156*
April	227	451	304	717	174	118	407	135	*194*	*161*
May	239	418	319	716	179		411	143	*202*	*165*
June	254	399	335	728	183		420	151	*197*	*167*
July	258	355	338	747	186	106	439	164	*198*	*194*
August	269	433	330	752	183		450	168	*194*	*195*
September	280	445	337	736	188		456	175	*195*	*199*
October	297	454	344	760	190	113	459	184	*198*	*200*
November	297	448	353	763	190		459	191	*194*	*199*
December	293	489	352	774	193		459	199	*189*	*202*
1976 January	289	476	354	797		101	452	205	*178*	*158*
February	292	471	353	801			461	209	*175*	*150*
March	303	442 (e)	363	743			446	208	*172* (e)	
April	310 (e)	429 (e)	360 (e)	738 (e)			441 (e)	209	*172* (e)	
May								211		
Rate %[8]	5.6	4.1	4.4	4.0	7.1	3.2	4.2	4.7	*8.1*	*1.4*
% change latest three months										
On previous three months	3.0	−5.0	1.6	−2.2	2.9	−10.6	−1.6	2.5	*−7.5*	*−14.7*
On a year earlier	42.1	4.2	23.1	8.5	43.6	12.2	14.8	54.7	*−7.9*	*11.8*

Note: Figures of total unemployment and unemployment rates are very sensitive to the particular measures used and the sources from which they are obtained. The figures in this table to a large extent reflect the different administrative systems and social-security provisions of the countries concerned.

[1] Insured unemployed. [2] Change of basis during period. [3] Monthly data are weekly averages. [4] Unfilled applications. [5] GB percent change on year is estimated.
[6] Based on results of sample survey. [7] Unemployment-insurance beneficiaries.
[8] Numbers in latest month available as % of total employees (UK) and of total labour force (others) (1970). (e) Estimated.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
GB source: 'Monthly Digest of Statistics'.

TABLE 3 Exports (fob) Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted

US$ million[4]

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United King-dom[2]	EEC	*United States*[2]	*Japan*[2]
1970	11,592	3,288	17,940	34,188	1,032	13,188	11,772	19,356	112,356	*43,224*	*19,320*
1971	12,081	3,609	20,592	39,009	1,308	15,177	13,953	22,356	128,084	*44,211*	*23,994*
1972	15,995	4,330	25,739	46,208	1,610	18,535	16,392	24,340	153,152	*49,676*	*28,591*
1973	22,416	6,120	35,952	67,440	2,124	22,236	23,952	28,862	210,684	*71,316*	*36,936*
1974	28,260	7,716	45,900	89,160	2,628	30,288	32,436	37,196	275,100	*98,508*	*55,536*
1975	28,812	8,712	52,212	90,024	3,216	34,824	34,440	41,715	295,992	*107,652*	*65,824*
1974 1st quarter	6,255	1,779	10,452	20,571	597	6,621	7,176	7,939	61,695	*22,326*	*11,442*
2nd quarter	7,311	1,887	11,208	22,761	636	7,197	8,154	9,611	69,066	*24,402*	*13,911*
3rd quarter	7,260	1,977	11,895	22,386	666	8,136	8,559	9,927	71,265	*25,281*	*14,445*
4th quarter	7,296	2,088	12,465	23,337	738	8,181	8,646	9,750	72,849	*26,706*	*15,396*
1975 1st quarter	7,893	2,199	13,557	23,625	771	8,712	8,928	10,842	77,121	*26,840*	*14,907*
2nd quarter	7,035	2,193	13,317	23,133	756	8,454	8,532	10,415	74,442	*25,795*	*13,842*
3rd quarter	6,408	2,055	12,441	21,060	795	8,697	7,869	9,865	69,813	*27,135*	*13,176*
4th quarter	7,227	2,241	12,876	22,356	852	9,015	9,138	10,475	74,865	*28,206*	*14,079*
1976 1st quarter			14,041 (e)					10,880			*15,944* (e)
1974 December	2,307	677	4,537	7,796	269	2,898	2,985	3,228	24,883	*8,841*	*4,898*
1975 January	2,642	737	4,437	7,928	288	2,852	3,014	3,712	25,844	*9,258*	*5,113*
February	2,755	730	4,631	7,952	265	2,909	2,968	3,475	25,965	*8,819*	*4,977*
March	2,496	731	4,491	7,746	218	2,951	2,946	3,794	25,511	*8,773*	*4,817*
April	2,360	738	4,426	7,610	270	2,747	2,952	3,287	24,558	*8,593*	*4,789*
May	2,285	706	4,310	7,354	265	2,785	2,722	3,742	24,404	*8,414*	*4,571*
June	2,388	749	4,581	8,169	221	2,921	2,857	3,384	25,482	*8,786*	*4,481*
July	2,053	707	4,186	7,224	266	2,799	2,655	3,418	23,532	*8,868*	*4,423*
August	2,240	671	4,142	6,704	263	3,031	2,499	3,149	22,902	*9,119*	*4,420*
September	2,116	678	4,114	7,132	265	2,848	2,708	3,298	23,378	*9,147*	*4,333*
October	2,271	806	4,148	7,200	316	2,918	3,008	3,555	24,489	*9,303*	*4,764*
November	2,632	724	4,315	7,764	290	3,182	3,095	3,356	25,591	*9,527*	*4,467*
December	2,324	711	4,414	7,392	246	2,916	3,037	3,562	24,785	*9,376*	*4,849*
1976 January	2,488	768	4,425	7,749	246	2 862	2,903	3,600	25,255	*8,840*	*5,037*
February	2,647	683	4,637	7,692	248	2,588	3,193	3,562	25,501	*8,800* (e)	*5,223*
March			4,979 (e)	8,945 (e)				3,706		*8,956* (e)	*5,684* (e)
April			4,790 (e)					3,560			
% change in dollar terms latest three months											
On previous three months	6.3	−2.1	9.5	9.1	−15.0	−6.5	3.7	3.0	2.8	*−5.7*	*13.2*
On a year earlier	−3.2	0.8	6.3	3.2	−10.0	−3.4	1.9	2.6	−1.2	*−1.0*	*7.0*
% change in national currencies latest three months											
On previous three months	5.8	−2.2	13.5	6.8	−10.7	11.1	4.1	8.2	4.6	*−5.7*	*11.9*
On a year earlier	8.8	11.1	16.0	12.4	10.6	27.5	13.8	26.0	15.8	*−1.0*	*10.3*

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies.
[4] All values are expressed in US dollars, making use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'. (e) estimated.

Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade
All others: 'OECD Series "A"'.

TABLE 4 Imports (cif) Special trade[1], seasonally adjusted

US$ million*

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[2]	France	German F.R.	Ireland[2]	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom[2]	EEC	*United States[2, 3]*	*Japan[2]*
1970	11,352	4,380	19,116	29,808	1,572	14,940	13,392	21,720	116,280	*39,960*	*18,876*
1971	12,390	4,476	21,261	34,356	1,838	16,026	15,159	23,897	129,403	*45,633*	*19,716*
1972	14,079	4,986	26,696	39,759	2,113	19,252	17,127	27,831	152,643	*55,819*	*23,463*
1973	21,936	7,704	37,380	54,492	2,784	27,816	24,360	38,884	215,232	*69,120*	*38,316*
1974	29,700	9,852	52,824	68,976	3,816	40,968	33,204	54,486	293,568	*100,968*	*62,112*
1975	30,708	10,332	54,240	74,208	3,804	38,364	35,148	53,695	300,048	*96,936*	*57,852*
1974 1st quarrer	6,522	2,331	11,973	15,354	834	9,387	7,197	12,043	65,661	*21,615*	*14,265*
2nd quarter	7,578	2,391	13,251	17,436	996	10,203	8,445	14,269	74,511	*24,951*	*15,891*
3rd quarter	7,485	2,331	13,935	17,865	1,023	11,121	8,835	14,119	76,605	*27,189*	*15,819*
4th quarter	7,290	2,337	13,809	18,345	939	10,314	8,817	14,093	75,951	*27,294*	*16,032*
1975 1st quarter	7,479	2,445	14,016	18,618	987	9,273	9,297	14,063	76,158	*25,002*	*14,895*
2nd quarter	7,359	2,415	13,131	18,678	924	9,039	8,760	13,091	73,395	*22,275*	*13,521*
3rd quarter	6,891	2,439	12,777	17,865	894	9,399	8,091	13,178	71,532	*24,303*	*14,451*
4th quarter	7,626	2,844	14,328	18,188	1,011	10,602	9,084	13,214	77,877	*25,515*	*15,102*
1976 1st quarter			15,473 (e)	20,673 (e)				13,221		*27,852* (e)	
1974 December	2,468	738	4,660	6,031	316	3,454	2,923	4,493	25,214	*9,365*	*5,289*
1975 January	2,479	828	4,752	6,096	338	3,113	3,125	5,011	25,739	*9,811*	*5,217*
February	2,499	835	4,678	6,327	359	2,980	3,107	4,738	25,522	*7,781*	*4,892*
March	2,502	784	4,585	6,195	288	3,179	3,064	4,305	24,897	*7,410*	*4,786*
April	2,493	816	4,415	6,573	318	2,981	2,886	4,428	24,904	*7,909*	*4,579*
May	2,414	809	4,244	5,882	310	2,823	2,886	4,290	23,658	*7,314*	*4,609*
June	2,453	790	4,472	6,222	295	3,234	2,988	4,377	24,836	*7,052*	*4,333*
July	2,267	803	4,294	5,847	302	3,142	2,676	4,520	23,848	*7,805*	*4,823*
August	2,185	805	4,173	5,843	286	2,814	2,544	4,447	23,097	*8,130*	*4,593*
September	2,440	830	4,309	6,174	305	3,443	2,870	4,212	24,587	*8,370*	*5,034*
October	2,456	874	4,644	6,320	308	3,288	2,766	4,397	25,049	*8,406*	*5,089*
November	2,605	978	4,897	6,307	357	3,637	3,203	4,367	26,349	*8,555*	*4,793*
December	2,565	991	4,786	6,562	345	3,676	3,116	4,439	26,478	*8,555*	*5,221*
1976 January	2,671	888	5,043	6,534	320	2,970	2,959	4,424	25,812	*9,425*	*5,126*
February	2,423 (e)	972	5,125	6,699	350	3,197	3,020	4,560	26,353 (e)	*8,820*	*5,027*
March			5,305 (e)	7,440 e()				4,242		*9,607* (e)	
April								4,596			
% change in dollar terms latest three months											
On previous three months	2.1	6.3	8.0	7.7	4.6	−5.1	2.9	1.3	3.5	*9.2*	3.1
On a year earlier	2.9	18.7	10.4	11.0	0.2	3.1	−0.7	−0.5	2.8	*11.4*	*−0.2*
% change in national currencies latest three months											
On previous three months	1.6	6.2	11.9	5.4	9.8	12.8	3.3	6.4	7.2	*9.2*	*2.0*
On a year earlier	15.7	31.8	20.4	20.9	22.9	36.1	10.9	21.0	22.5	*11.4*	*2.9*

[1] For most purposes special trade may be defined as trade excluding re-exports. [2] General trade. [3] fob. [4] Weighted average of percentage changes in national currencies
* All values are expressed in US dollars with the use of IMF parity rates as quoted in 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'.
(e) estimated. Source: United Kingdom: Department of Trade. All others: 'OECD Series "A" '.

TABLE 5 Balance of Payments on current account

US$ million (unadjusted)

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Nether-lands	United Kingdom	EEC	*United States*	*Japan*
1970	724	−544	+297	729	−191	902	−518	1,661	2,470	*−281*	*1,970*
1971	851	−423	530	323	−190	2,041	−233	2,588	5,143	*−3,881*	*5,821*
1972	1,113	−66	297	1,041	−139	2,266	1,050	221	4,314	*−9,714*	*6,624*
1973	1,140	−472	−691	4,349	−216	−2,510	1,750	−5,718	865 (e)	*337*	*−133*
1974	911	−982	−5,943	9,676		−7,817	1,648	−12,319		*−3,362*	*−4,650*
1975		−508						−7,111			
1973 1st quarter	366	−151	−225	565		−669	396	−890		*−311*	*497*
2nd quarter	232	−179	280	1,039		−736	574	−471		*−941*	*−416*
3rd quarter	217	69	−542	826		−14	−41	−603		*−1,087*	*101*
4th quarter	326	−211	−206	1,919		−1,060	822	−1,165		*2,676*	*−315*
1974 1st quarter	339	−519	−1,602	2,783		−2,503	335	−3,233		*1,323*	*−3,274*
2nd quarter	−121	−311	−1,864	2,193		−2,433	405	−3,233		*−1,869*	*−2,377*
3rd quarter	323	−141	−1,930	827		−1,413	478	−2,970		*−4,099*	*−133*
4th quarter	370	−16	−547	3,873		−1,467	429	−2,879		*1,283*	*1,133*
1975 1st quarter	622	−88	−418	2,200		−461	129	−2,485		*3,073*	*−887*
2nd quarter	141	45	900	900		−9	437	−1,581		*3,976*	*−288*
3rd quarter	31	−72	−282	−479			385	−2,030		*961*	*−38*
4th quarter		−393		1,513			454 (e)	−1,077		*−992* (e)	*470* (e)
1976 1st quarter								−1,179			*192* (e)

Source: UK: Central Statistical Office. All others: IMF International Financial Statistics.

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TABLE 6 Export unit values of manufactures

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxembourg		France		German F.R.		Italy		Netherlands		United Kingdom		*United States*	*Japan*	
	US$	Bfrs.	US$	frs.	US$	D.M.	US$	lire	US$	Gdrs.	US$	£	US$	US$	Yen
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*	*100*
1971	101	98	105	105	108	102	106	105	104	101	106	105	*102*	*104*	*101*
1972	112	99	115	105	117	102	114	106	117	104	116	111	*104*	*116*	*99*
1973	137	107	143	114	147	107	126	118	139	107	127	124	*113*	*141*	*107*
1974	171	133	162	140	172	122	154	160	178	132	153	155	*137*	*181*	*147*
1975					195	131					178	192	*159*		
1973 1st quarter	122	102	126	110	124	103	119	110	124	105	119	118	*107*	*125*	*100*
2nd quarter	134	105	141	112	141	105	121	115	135	107	129	122	*111*	*136*	*100*
3rd quarter	148	108	153	115	162	106	131	120	148	124	131	127	*114*	*147*	*108*
4th quarter	147	113	152	121	157	109	133	125	152	112	132	133	*120*	*154*	*118*
1974 1st quarter	150	123	141	125	154	114	133	137	154	121	134	141	*127*	*165*	*134*
2nd quarter	173	132	158	139	175	120	148	151	179	130	153	153	*132*	*183*	*142*
3rd quarter	177	137	170	147	175	125	163	171	186	137	159	162	*142*	*185*	*152*
4th quarter	183	138	181	151	183	126	171	181	192	138	165	170	*148*	*190*	*159*
1975 1st quarter	199	139	196	152	203	130	184	188	209	139	178	179	*156*	*192*	*157*
2nd quarter	192	134	208	153	203	130			205	136	182	188	*159*	*188*	*152*
3rd quarter			193	151	189	132					175	197	*159*		
4th quarter					185	131					174	205	*162*		
% change latest 3 months:															
On previous 3 months	−3.5	−3.6	−7.2	−1.3	−2.1	−0.8	+7.6	+3.9	−1.9	−2.2	−0.6	4.0	*1.9*	*−2.1*	*−3.2*
On a year earlier	11.0	1.5	13.5	2.7	1.1	4.0	+38.4	+37.2	14.5	4.6	5.5	20.5	*9.6*	*+2.3*	*+7.0*

(e) estimated.

Source: Dollar value: 'United Nations Monthly Bulletin'. National currency: Dollar values converted at OECD exchange rates as quoted in 'Series A' : UK Department of Trade

TABLE 7 Consumer prices All goods and services

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium[1]	Luxembourg[1]	Denmark	France	German F.R.	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	United Kingdom	*United States*	*Japan*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	104	105	106	105	105	109	105	108	109	*104*	*106*
1972	110	110	113	112	111	118	111	116	117	*108*	*111*
1973	118	117	123	120	119	132	122	125	127	*114*	*125*
1974	133	128	142	136	127	154	146	137	148	*127*	*153*
1975	150	142	157	152	135	186	171	151	184	*139*	*171*
1974 1st quarter	125	123	134	129	125	144	134	132	139	*122*	*144*
2nd quarter	130	127	140	135	127	151	141	136	147	*125*	*151*
3rd quarter	136	129	144	139	128	157	150	138	151	*129*	*156*
4th quarter	140	133	149	143	130	165	160	143	158	*133*	*163*
1975 1st quarter	144	136	152	147	132	178	165	146	167	*135*	*165*
2nd quarter	148	140	156	151	135	189	169	150	183	*137*	*171*
3rd quarter	151	143	158	154	136	187	173	153	191	*140*	*173*
4th quarter	155	147	156	157	137	192	178	156	195	*142*	*177*
1974 December	141	134	150	144	130		162	144	159	*134*	*164*
1975 January	143	135	151	146	131		164	145	164	*134*	*164*
February	144	137	152	147	132	178	166	145	167	*135*	*165*
March	145	138	153	148	133		166	147	170	*136*	*168*
April	147	139	154	150	134		168	149	177	*136*	*171*
May	148	140	156	151	134	189	169	150	184	*137*	*173*
June	149	141	157	152	135		171	150	187	*138*	*172*
July	150	142	158	153	135		171	151	190	*140*	*173*
August	151	143	158	154	135	187	173	153	191	*140*	*172*
September	152	144	159	155	136		174	155	192	*141*	*176*
October	154	146	155	156	136		176	156	195	*142*	*179*
November	156	147	158	157	137	192	178	156	197	*142*	*177*
December	157	148	158	158	137		179	157	200	*143*	*177*
1976 January	158	151	159	160	138		181	158	202	*143*	*180*
February	159	151	160	161	139	206	185	159	205	*144*	*182*
March	160	152	161 (e)	163 (e)	140			161	206	*144*	*182*
April	160 (e)			164 (e)	140 (e)				208	*144* (e)	
% change last 3 months:											
On previous 3 months	1.7	3.0	1.9	2.7	1.7	7.3	3.2	1.9	3.3	*0.9*	*2.1*
On a year earlier	9.9	10.7	5.3	9.7	5.0	15.7	10.8	9.4	20.4	*6.1*	*9.5*

Excluding rent.

(e) estimated.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

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TABLE 8 Value of retail sales Current prices, seasonally adjusted

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Denmark	France[2]	German F.R.[3]	Ireland[4]	Italy[4,7]	Nether-lands	Great Britain[5]	*United States*	*Japan*
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	108	108	104	111	111	111	108	109	*109*	*110*
1972	120	119	110	121	126	125	122	122	*119*	*118*
1973	138	134	117	130	148	152	136	139	*134*	*145*
1974	162	147	134	137	168	189	150	160	*143*	*165*
1975	183	167	147	149	199		169	191	*155*	*192*
1974 1st quarter	153	144	127	134	158	160	144	149	*138*	*157*
2nd quarter	159	148	131	135	165	166	149	154	*142*	*160*
3rd quarter	166	148	136	139	169	181	155	165	*148*	*170*
4th quarter	171	152	139	138	175	236	153	173	*142*	*173*
1975 1st quarter	176	161	141	146	183	181	164	181	*148*	*186*
2nd quarter	177	164	145	147	192	194	167	190	*153*	*192*
3rd quarter	184	166	147	151	200	192	170	194	*159*	*192*
4th quarter	192	179	154	154	216		177	199	*162*	*196*
1976 1st quarter								208		
1974 August	157	148	133	139	172	162	155	165	*150*	*167*
September	164	147	140	143	171	196	154	168	*148*	*177*
October	172	151	146	143	175	225	155	170	*146*	*170*
November	162	153	136	139	177	196	153	175	*142*	*174*
December	175	151	136	133	173	288	152	174	*144*	*174*
1975 January	175	160	139	144	185	168	161	181	*147*	*182*
February	175	163	141	146	182	169	164	181	*150*	*186*
March	178	160	144	147	183	208	166	181	*147*	*191*
April	178	163	145	148	188	188	165	201	*150*	*191*
May	174	162	144	145	198	203	164	182	*154*	*192*
June	180	167	144	150	189	193	166	187	*155*	*193*
July	179	169	145	149	193	198	168	192	*159*	*193*
August	184	166	147	150	198	166	166	192	*160*	*194*
September	189	163	150	152	208	211	176	196	*158*	*190*
October	193	180	153	154	212	254	177	194	*160*	*197*
November	188	180	154	156	214		174	198	*161*	*194*
December	196	177	156	152	226		181	204	*165*	*195*
1976 January		182	151	155	222			211	*165*	*197*
February		203	148					207	*167*	*206*
March			151					206	*172*	
% change latest 3 months:										
On previous 3 months	4.5	7.5	−2.8	1.5	7.1	21.7	4.3	4.7	*3.7*	*2.9*
On a year earlier	13.4	18.6	6.1	11.3	23.7	9.9	15.7	14.9	*13.5*	*10.3*

[1] Department and chainstores. [2] Including chainstores. [3] Including indirect taxes. [4] Average weekly sales. [5] Excluding motor vehicles. [7] Not seasonally adjusted.

Source: 'OECD Main Economic Indicators'

TABLE 9 Earnings/wages per head in manufacturing

Indices 1970 = 100

	Belgium/ Luxem-bourg	Den-mark[1,2]	France	German F.R.[4] †	Ireland[2]	Italy[7]	Nether-lands[3]	Great Britain	*United States*[4]	*Japan*[5] †
1970	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	*100*	*100*
1971	111	115	110	111	116	112	112	111	*106*	*114*
1972	126	129	121	121	133	124	126	126	*113*	*132*
1973	147	153	138	136	159	154	143	143	*121*	*163*
1974	178	187	162	152	191	189	168	166	*131*	*206*
1975		224	185	165		239		209	*143*	*230*
1973 1st quarter	140	137	129	131	145	137	137	134	*118*	*148*
2nd quarter	144	151	133	134	157	151	140	139	*120*	*155*
3rd quarter	149	160	138	137	164	161	146	144	*122*	*162*
4th quarter	154	168	144	140	168	168	148	150	*124*	*174*
1974 1st quarter	162	173	147	144	172	176	158	147	*126*	*178*
2nd quarter	173	185	155	150	188	184	166	159	*129*	*204*
3rd quarter	184	190	164	156	196	194	174	172	*133*	*212*
4th quarter	192	202	169	158	207	202	175	185	*137*	*216*
1975 1st quarter	201	211	173	158	222	225	185	194	*139*	*226*
2nd quarter	207	223	177	161	241	238	189	202	*141*	*221*
3rd quarter	213	226	187	166	255	245	198	215	*144*	*237*
4th quarter		235	190	169		249		226	*147*	*237*
1976 1st quarter			195 (e)						*150* (e)	
% change latest 3 months:										
On previous 3 months	2.9	4.0	2.6	1.8	5.8	1.6	4.8	5.1	*2.0*	*Nil*
On a year earlier	15.8	16.3	12.7	7.0	30.1	23.3	13.8	22.2	*7.9*	*9.7*

† Seasonally adjusted.
[1] Including mining. [2] Earnings. [3] Hourly rates industry: males. [4] Gross hourly earnings per productive worker. [5] Monthly earnings in manufacturing: regular workers. [6] Wages and salaries per employed person in industry, excluding construction, public gas and electricity undertakings. [7] Hourly-rates times average daily hours worked.

Source: All countries 'OECD Main Economic Indicators', except German Federal Republic ('Monatsberichte der Deutschen Bundesbank', Reine 4), Italy ('I.L.O. Yearbook' and 'M.E.I.') and Great Britain ('Department of Employment Gazette' and M.E.I.).

R and D in the European communities

Handley Stevens of the Department of Trade's Europe, Industry and Technology Division looks at the progress of the European communities' science and technology policies and the opportunities they present for British research organisations

The European communities will spend more in 1976 on managing the wine lake or the sugar market than on support for science and technology, but in the Lilliput world of non-CAP expenditure, research at about £75 million in 1976 is in fact one of the major claims on the community budget, topped only by the social fund (£183 million), the regional fund (£125 million) and co-operation with non-associated countries (£99 million).

Moreover, as community funding is often matched by equivalent funds raised by the national contractors engaged to do the work, and since there is also some research co-ordinated by the commission without significant community funding, the total value of research paid for, sponsored by or co-ordinated through the community could well be in the region of £200 million per annum.

The European communities carry out research in their own laboratories, known collectively as the joint research centre (JRC), at a cost of about £30 million per annum; they also commission work in other laboratories at a cost of about £45 million per annum; and they seek to co-ordinate the research programmes of the member states.

The four establishments of the joint research centres

Major decisions are outstanding this year in all three fields and that is why the council of research ministers, which met only once in 1973 and once in 1974, has already met three times in the past year and is almost certain to meet at least twice more in 1976.

Much the most controversial issue at present is the proposal to construct a joint European Torus (Jet) as the next step on the long, hard road to fusion power. There is a wide measure of agreement on the need for this major experiment and on its design, but whereas the commission would like it to be built at Ispra in Italy, on the same site as the main establishment of the JRC, fusion scientists in France, Germany and the UK all consider that the experiment would have a better chance of success if it were built at one of the appropriate national establishments.

The Jet design team is already at Culham in Oxfordshire, and of all the sites which have been proposed the UK considers Culham to have the strongest claim because of its experience of plasma physics and tokamak engineering, unmatched elsewhere. When the House of Commons debated the communities' energy policy on 16 March, spokesmen on both sides of the house voiced their conviction that Culham was the right place. Speakers in the House of Lords were equally unanimous in a debate on 18 May, but the choice of site is likely to be hotly contested for some months yet within the community.

The Jet project is important, and the dispute about its siting is likely to dominate the next meeting of the research council in July, but it should not be forgotten that it is only part of the highly successful community fusion programme, which brings together under community management all the fusion research which is being done in the nine member states, thus ensuring that there is the minimum of overlapping and duplication and the maximum exchange of information.

And this in turn is part of a much wider programme of research in areas as diverse as energy conservation and reference materials for the cosmetics industry. Brief details of all the current programmes, with an indication of the contract opportunities and the names of people to contact in Government departments are set out on pages 614-616.

After Jet the next most controversial subject for research ministers to consider next month and later this year is the future programme of the joint research centre. The JRC has an unfortunate history. It was built up in the early 1960s mainly to carry out research on the development of heavy-water moderated organic-liquid cooled natural-uranium reactors, but this line of research collapsed when so many European electricity supply undertakings opted for light-water reactors.

For a period JRC stagnated. Then it began to diversify, first into other aspects of nuclear research, especially reactor safety, and more recently into non-nuclear research including

The community's largest joint research centre establishment at Ispra, near Varese, in Italy. (photo: European Community Information Service)

the environment. The current JRC programme, 1973 to 1976 (see right) consists of more than 20 projects spread around the four establishments at Ispra (Italy), Geel (Belgium), Petten (Netherlands) and Karlsruhe (Germany) and the council have already indicated that the next programme should be restricted to a much smaller number of projects mainly dealing with energy and environment research. The commission has responded with proposals for 10 programmes around five major themes as follows:

nuclear safety	48 per cent
new energies	12 per cent
environment and resources	10 per cent
reference measurements, standards and techniques	17 per cent
service activities	13 per cent

When the council meets in July there will probably be a first discussion of the programme in broad outline, but the council is very unlikely to be ready to take decisions before the autumn.

By then the council could also have before it new proposals from the commission on the co-ordination of national programmes. At present only a tiny fraction of the research carried out in the member states (around 1 per cent) is co-ordinated across the community, for the most part by means of community-sponsored research programmes.

It will not be easy to find more money to increase these. There is much that does not need to be co-ordinated at all and a good deal more that is adequately co-ordinated already, either among the governments concerned or by the scientists themselves. Moreover there are limits to what can sensibly be done to co-ordinate research programmes when there is as yet so little co-ordination of the industrial and economic policies to which government-sponsored research is necessarily related. But there probably is scope for some degree of co-ordination over more than 1 per cent of national research programmes: the problem will be to define the most promising areas and the most appropriate means.

At all events there is plenty to talk about over the next year or so, and a fair chance that at the end of it community policies for science and technology will have taken another small step forward. Meanwhile there are opportunities for British research organisations to compete for contracts, and even though for many of these only half the money can be provided by the commission, they can be well worthwhile, bearing in mind the opportunities they present to exchange ideas to make clear the potentialities of UK laboratories and industry.

Current community research programmes: joint research centre

Programme	JRC establishment	Cost 1975 mua	Cost 1973–6 mua
Waste processing and storage	Ispra	2.053	5.512
Plutonium and transplutonium elements	Karlsruhe	3.922	13.000
Materials science	Ispra	4.115	13.600
Hydrogen production	Ispra	2.032	7.400
Reactor safety	Ispra	6.258	21.716
Applied data processing	Ispra	1.747	6.050
Information analysis office	Ispra	1.502	5.100
Central bureau for nuclear measurements	Geel	6.037	20.350
Standards and reference materials	Ispra	1.931	6.200
	Petten	—	1.360
Environment	Ispra	4.742	15.850
Teledetection of the earth's resources	Ispra	0.508	1.420
New technologies (solar energy)	Ispra	0.886	3.050
High temperature materials	Petten	—	3.600
Plutonium and transplutonic elements*	Karlsruhe	2.604	8.650
Control and management of fissile materials*	Ispra	1.536	5.400
Operation of the HFR reactor*	Petten	6.626	23.000

* Complementary programme not financed by all member states.

Research contract opportunities

Any research organisation with an interest in any of the programmes described below should get in touch with the contact point for further information and detailed advice about the opportunities in each sector. But the following notes apply to all programmes:

1 Finance provided by the commission is usually limited to about 50 per cent and the contractor must be in a position to find the balance himself or from other sources.
2 The commission looks to member states for advice on the distribution of contracts. If Government representatives on the commission's advisory committees are to support UK bids effectively, they need full information.
3 Because the commission's money comes from taxes and levies raised in the member states, Government representatives give their strongest support to programmes which are relevant to national research requirements as well as those of the community as a whole.
4 The commission's standard draft terms of contract usually propose substantial rights for the community in any resulting information on inventions, but Government departments now have considerable experience in helping research organisations to negotiate satisfactory terms within the framework of the relevant community regulations, and will be glad to advise in specific cases.

1. Under the Euratom Treaty

Fusion

There has been a succession of community research programmes on fusion since 1959. The most recent five-year programme (1971-75) cost 73 mua and operated by means of a series of contracts of association with appropriate laboratories in the member states, including UKAEA Culham. For the next five years (1976-80) the community has approved a further programme of fusion research to cost 124 mua. However it has so far failed to approve an additional project for the construction of a tokamak device to be known as the joint European Torus, pending a final decision on which the appropriation for the agreed programme will be restricted to 20.8 mua for the first year.

Contact:
E. W. Carr, DEn, Room 1576, Thames House South, Millbank, SW1 (01-211 5486).

Radio-biology

A five-year programme was agreed in 1971, consisting of an 18.9 mua common programme on health protection and a 5.9 mua complementary programme on the application of nuclear techniques and methods to agricultural research and medicine. The UK did not participate in the complementary programme. For the years 1976-80 the community has adopted proposals for a main programme on radiation protection costing 39 mua, but the commission's proposals for an agricultural applications programme were rejected by the council and the future of community research in this field is uncertain.

Contact:
E. W. Carr, DEn, Room 1576 Thames House South, Millbank SW1 (01-211 5486).

Plutonium recycling in light-water reactors

EST(75)30 refers. A four-year programme costing 4.5 mua was adopted by the council in December 1974. At present work is restricted to information gathering in member states. It is likely that only the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, British Nuclear Fuels Ltd and the Central Electricity Generating Board will be in a position to seek contracts.

Contact:
E. W. Carr, DEn, Room 1576, Thames House South, Millbank SW1 (01-211 5486).

Radio-active waste management and storage

EST(75)53 describes the five-year programme (1975-79) costing 19.16 mua which was adopted by the council on 26 June 1975. The programme, which is subject to review in 1977, covers a wide range from short-term storage at selected sites to very long-term storage and ultimate disposal. As with plutonium recycling it seems probable that only the UKAEA and British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. will be in a position to compete for research contracts.

Contact:
E. W. Carr, DEn, Room 1576, Thames House South, Millbank SW1 (01-211 5486).

2. Under the EEC Treaty

Energy R and D

EST(75)60 describes the energy research programme which was adopted by the council on 22 August 1975. The programme is to be implemented in two stages, the first from 1 July 1975 to 31 December 1976 costing 12 mua, and the second – subject to a review of its content and timing – costing 47 mua over the period 1 January 1977 to 30 June 1979. The breakdown between the main subject areas is as follows:

Energy conservation	:	11.38 mua
Production and utilisation of hydrogen	:	13.24 mua
Solar energy	:	17.50 mua
Geothermal energy	:	13.00 mua
Systems analysis: development of models	:	3.88 mua
Total	:	59.00 mua

There are in addition direct programmes at Ispra on hydrogen and solar energy costing 7.8 mua and 3.2 mua respectively over 1973-76.

Contact:
Dr. G. Preston, DEn, Room 1083, Thames House South, Millbank SW1 (01-211 5461).

Oil and gas development (community projects in the hydrocarbons sector)

Under Regulation 3056/73 of 9 November 1973 (*Official Journal* 13 November 1973 (funds are made available to support projects which involve technological development directly connected with prospecting for, producing, storing or transporting oil or natural gas. At approximately annual intervals the commission ask for details of projects for which support is being sought to be submitted for assessment. Since 1973 some 25 mua has been made available each year in the form of interest free grants which are repayable in the event of commercial exploitation of the projects. The grants already made range between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of the total cost of the projects. Anyone wishing to apply to the commission for funds should contact the Department of Energy, as some advice based on experience of the method of assessment used by the commission may help towards the successful presentation and acceptance of the project.

Contact:
R. N. Waters, DEn, Room 1519, Thames House South, Millbank, SW1 (01-211 5547).

Environment research

The first indirect action programme in this field, costing 6.3 mua over 1974-75, covered a range of topics including lead, water pollution, remote sensing of air pollution, and the establishment of a data bank on environmental chemicals. A new five-year programme covering four areas (establishment of criteria, information management, reduction or prevention of pollution and nuisances and improvement of the environment) with varying mixes of indirect and concerted action was agreed by the council in February 1976. It will cost 16 mua over five years. R.2021/75 provides a useful summary of both programmes. There is also a direct programme at Ispra costing 18.2 mua over 1973-76.

Contact:
Dr. A. F. E. Wise, DOE, 2 Marsham Street, SW1 (01-212 8340).

Community bureau of reference (standards and reference substances)

The indirect action programme for 1973-75, which cost 1.9 mua, was concerned with preparatory work on ferrous and non-ferrous metals, physical and technological properties, organic, inorganic and clinical chemistry and environmental analysis. A new programme for the years 1976-78, which would concontinue work in the present areas and introduce three new topics (food, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals) was agreed by the council in February 1976 with a budget of 2.7 mua. There is also a direct programme at Ispra and Petten costing about 9 mua over 1973-76.

Contact:
Dr. J. A. Catterall, DOI, Room 303, Abell House, John Islip Street, SW1 (01-211 3884).

Textiles

EST(75)23 describes the research programme agreed by the council on 14-15 April 1975. The community is providing 0.25 mua over three years towards a programme costing 0.75 mua. The balance is being found by members of Comitextil.

Contact:
Dr. P. Drath, DOI, Room 404, Abell House, John Islip Street, SW1 (01-211 7038).

Footwear

The commission have been discussing a research programme with representatives of the European footwear industry, which would be similar to the textile programme in the sense that more than half the finance would be found by the industry itself. Preliminary proposals were discussed in CREST in November 1975, but the commission was asked to reconsider them,

mainly on the grounds that research needed to relate to a community policy for the industry, of which there was no evidence.

Contact:
D. I. Packham, DOI, Room 408, Abell House, John Islip Street, SW1 (01-211 6380).

Agriculture

Research in this field is controlled by the standing committee on agricultural research (SCAR). The terms of reference laid down that 'the commission shall ensure the necessary harmony between the activity of the committee and that of CREST'. A three-year programme of research into animal leucoses, livestock effluents, beef production and plant protein production was adopted by the council on 22 July 1975 (details in *Official Journal* No. L.199 of 30 July 1975). The cost is divided into 9.836 mua for the indirect programmes (joint programmes) and 0.464 mua for the indirect (co-ordinated) action. There is also a 0.713 mua indirect research programme into African swine fever. Under the agricultural research programme contracts will normally be available only to Government-funded institutes.

Contact:
O. R. Sadler, MAFF, Gt Westminster House, Horseferry Road, SW1 (01-216 6804).

Raw materials R and D

In January 1976 CREST agreed a programme of studies on primary and secondary raw materials R and D which is likely to yield contracts of 250,000 ua in 1976 and at least 400,000 ua in 1977 and to provide the basis for a more substantial research programme thereafter. The primary programme will lead to the production of dossiers on indigenous resources of certain raw materials in short supply, while the secondary programme focuses on recycling technology.

Contacts:
(Primary) H. J. Ivey, DOI, Room 2604, Millbank Tower, SW1 (01-211 3121).
(Secondary) Dr. W. S. Clough, DOE, 2 Marsham Street, SW1 (01-212 4988).
(Primary and Secondary) Dr. L. Hopkin, DOI, Room 318, Abell House, John Islip Street, SW1 (01-211 6317).

Materials research

This originated in a commission proposal (COM(73)1250) for concerted action programmes on materials for chemical plant, aircraft and electronics. The last two have been allowed to lapse, but the Crest sub-committee on materials for chemical plant equipment has prepared a report on the industry's R and D needs, covering stress corrosion, corrosion fatigue, erosion-corrosion, electro-chemical methods of corrosion testing, and plastics (reinforced and non-reinforced) which is under consideration in Crest.

Contact:
Dr. D. C. Milner, DOI, Room 320, Abell House, John Islip Street, SW1 (01-211 4121).

Medical research

The CREST sub-committee on medical research and public health has five specialised working groups (epidemiology, biomedical, bioengineering, road accidents and deafness) and the group for the monitoring of the seriously ill. The budget of about 250,000 ua per annum is largely spent on seminars.

Contact:
A. J. Davies, DHSS, Alexander Flemming House, SE1 (01-407 5522 ext. 7869).

Scientific and technical information and documentation (IDST)

CIDST which reports through CREST, was established by a council decision in 1971 to develop the European information and documentation network. Its working groups cover agriculture, environment, biomedicine, patents documentation, energy, information for industry and training. A three-year programme (1975-77) costing 2.15 mua in 1976 was agreed by the council on 18 March 1975 and is described in EST(75)39.

Contacts:
J. C. Gray, The British Library, Sheraton House, Great Chapter Street, W1 (01-734 6767).
or A. C. Nicholas, DOI, Room 210, Abell House, John Islip Street, SW1 (01-211 4172).

Urban planning

This programme of work concerned with a comparative analysis of the causes and consequences of the growth of large urban concentrations is likely to be the first community concerted action – that is to say work to the value of 1.8 mua would be carried out by the member states at their own expense in 1976 and 1977, while the community would finance only the costs of co-ordination and a small research secretariat. Proposals to this end are likely to be submitted to the council in 1976.

Contact:
P. F. Everall, DOE, Room S10/04, 2 Marsham Street, SW1 (01-212 8290).

3. Under the ECSC Treaty

Arrangements for ECSC research are similar to those for research under EEC and Euratom, except that the commission is financed in this sector by means of a levy on the coal and steel industries, whose representatives consequently have a good deal of influence on how the money is spent.

Coal

Research takes place within the framework of the medium-term programme for the years 1975-85 (R/1042/74). This sets out 10 headings under which the commission is prepared to consider applications for aid. 13.9 mua was allocated to this from the 1975 ECSC budget.
Contact:
H. F. Ferguson, D En, Room 1025, Thames House South Millbank, London SW1 (01-211 3772).

Steel

In the absence of any framework programme the only available guide to current and future research opportunities in this field is what has been successful in attracting support in the past. The 1975 programme cost 15 mua.
Contact:
Dr. A. G. Franklin, DOI, Room 771, Thames House South Millbank, London SW1 (01-211 4151).

Social (Industrial safety, health and medicine)

This is a group of five programmes aimed at the mining and steel industries and costing 5.3 mua in 1975. The five programmes are:

- population control in the steel industry
- health in mines
- safety in mines
- ergonomics and rehabilitation
- chronic respiratory diseases

Contact:
J. Skevington, Health and Safety Executive, Red Hill, Sheffield (0742 78141 ext. 309).

COST programmes

COST programmes (Co-operation in Science and Technology) are not confined to the nine member states of the European communities but may include Austria, Finland, Greece, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Yugoslavia. There is no obligation to participate in all programmes: the 19 member states are free to select and finance those programmes which they wish to support, one of the aims being to associate national industries with the projects. Projects are implemented by international agreement and the role of the commission is confined to the provision of secretarial and support services.

Informatics

COST project 11 on the 'Establishment of a European Informatics Network' was set up by Intergovernmental Agreement in 1973 (Command 4922), costing about 5 mua over 1973-78. The project is being implemented by concerted and joint action and is concerned with the design, construction and testing of a prototype standard network nodal centre, definition of a network controls language, installation and inter-connection of nodal centres, the operation of a pilot network and the carrying-out of a co-ordinated research programme designed to test the network.

Contact:
B. R. Taylor, DoI, Room 216, Dean Bradley House, Horseferry Road, SW1 (01-212 5522).

Telecommunications

Three small projects on telecommunications have been set up within COST but the UK has not participated in this work. Concerted action projects on aerial network with phase control (Project 25/1) and on aerials with reduced side lobas and maximum GT yield (Project 25/2) were implemented by intergovernmental agreement in 1973, costing about 0.4 mua (1973-76) and 0.15 mua (1973-75) respectively. A co-ordinated action project on the influence of hydrometeors and the maximum usable gain in aerials for frequencies above 10 GHz (Project 25/4) was agreed in 1972 and is expected to cost about 3 mua. Proposals for projects on redundancy reduction techniques for visual telephone signals (Project 211) and optical fibre communica-

tion systems (Project 208) are under consideration.

Contact:
Projects 25/1/2/5 – Mr. Davidson, PO Research Centre, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, IPS 7RE;
Project 208, 211 – Mr. W. Banham, TSS Strategic Studies Division, 88 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 1PE.

New means of transport

A programme of work on electronic traffic aids (Project 30) is under discussion and is expected to take the form of a three-year concerted action project to determine the usefulness of systems of electronic traffic aids and to propose standards for future systems. The project on the forward study of traffic between conurbations (Project 33) is being carried out as a Part II OECD activity, costing about 0.5 mua (1973-76). The project is attempting to forecast the development of European inter-urban passenger transport requirements and to analyse the possible consequences of various transport strategies.

Contact:
Project 30 – Mrs. R. Wilkie, DoE, Room S9/08, 2 Marcham Street, SW1 (01-212 7404);
Project 33 – W. Deakin, DoE, Room F9/12, 2 Marsham Street, SW1 (01-212 8318).

Oceanography/ meteorology

The convention (Command 5632) establishing the European centre for medium-range weather forecasts (Project 70) was ratified in 1975. The centre will be located near Reading and will aim to produce weather forecasts for up to 10 days ahead, as well as carrying out research to improve the quality of these forecasts and to assist in post-graduate training in the field of numerical weather forecasting. The expenditure of the centre is expected to be about 3 mua p.a. in 1976 rising to about 14 mua p.a. in 1980.
As part of the preliminary phase of Project 72, on the development and standardisation of meteorological equipment, studies on sounding balloons, radiosondes and automatic weather stations were started in 1973. A programme of work on a European network of ocean data stations (Project 43) is still under discussion. It is expected that this project would lead to the development of pilot networks in European waters and to the exchange of information on sensors and communication systems.

Contact:
Project 70 – A. F. Thorpe, MOD, Main Building, Whitehall, SW1 (01-218 7189);
Project 72 – G. A. Clift, Meteorological Office, Beaufort Park, East Hampstead, Wokingham, Berks (0344 20242);
Project 43 – Dr. G. V. G. Lusher, DoI, Room 405, Abell House, SW1 (01-211 3520).

Metallurgy

A programme of work on materials for gas turbines (Project 50/51/52), subject to inter-governmental agreement (Command 4923), was started in 1972, costing a maximum of 7.47 mua (1972-75). The main aim of this programme has been to co-ordinate R and D in the gas turbine materials field, especially by studying the properties and behaviour of the more advanced materials. An extension of this project is currently under discussion.
A second concerted action programme, subject to inter-governmental agreement (Command 5265) was started in 1972 on materials for seawater desalination plants (Project 53), costing a maximum of 2.25 mua (1972-75). The project has included work on steels, copper alloys, concrete and protective coatings.

Contact:
Project 50/51/52 – D. G. Anderson, DoI, Room 317, Abell House, John Islip Street, SW1 (01-211 3560);
Project 53 – M. C. Tanner, UKAEA, Risley, Warrington, Lancs (0925 31244).

Pollution

Three concerted action COST projects on pollution were started in 1972 on physico-chemical behaviour of sulphur dioxide (Project 61a), micro-pollutants in water (Project 64D) and sewage sludge processing (Project 68), subject to inter-governmental agreements (Commands 4926, 4924 and 4925 respectively) costing about 3 mua. These projects involve studies of chemical conversion, transport, dispersion and absorption of sulphur dioxide, the identification and analysis of organic micro-pollutants in water and the assessment of methods of processing and disposing of sewage sludge. Follow-up projects are being considered as part of the second indirect action environment research programme (q.v.).

Contact:
Project 61a – J. Beighton, Alkali Inspectorate, Room 274, Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, SW1 (01-390 4300);
Project 64b – D. H. A. Price, Chemical Inspector, DoE, 2 Marsham Street, SW1 (01-212 4011);
Project 68 – A. F. E. Wise, DoE, Room 55/11A, 2 Marsham Street, SW1 (01-212 8340).

Agriculture

A programme of research in agriculture, proposed by Yugoslavia in 1974, is under consideration in COST. The proposals that have been put forward include research on maize feeding, production of bio-synthetic protein and applications of single-cell proteins and synthetic amino acids.

Contact:
O. R. Sadler, MAFF, Room 123, Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, SW1 (01-216 7328).

Food technology

A programme of work on food technology, proposed by Sweden in 1974, comprising research on physical, quality and nutritional properties of foodstuffs, is currently under discussion in COST.

Contact:
P. E. Martin, MAFF, Room 453, Great Westminster House, Horseferry Road, SW1 (01-216 6311).

Economic Trends

A monthly journal for those who want to follow the main trends of the econonic situation in the United Kingdom. It brings together the main statistical series of employment, output, consumption, trade and finance, and each issue contains special feature article on some aspect of the statistics.
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HMSO BOOKS

Customs notices of interest to exporters

The following Public Notices issued by HM Customs and Excise relate to various aspects of export procedure. Copies of these Notices may be obtained from local offices of Customs and Excise, addresses of which appear in the telephone directory, or from the Secretary, HM Customs and Excise, 39-41 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE.

7	Drawback of Excise Duty on mixed or blended beers.
17	Arrangements for preferential trade between the Channel Islands and the United Kingdom.
49	Temporary importations: international co-operation.
104	ATA Carnets.
112	Authorised hours for Customs work at ports, airports and in long rooms and charges for attendance given at the request of merchants.
112A	Charges for attendance given at private premises at the request of merchants.
118	Samples imported for promoting export trade.
172	Hydrocarbon Oils: drawback of Excise Duty.
207	Re-imported goods: relief from Customs duty and Value Added Tax.
210	Temporary importation of films and similar goods for copying, printing, etc., to fulfil export orders.
221	Duty relief under the Import Duties Act 1958, and pre-financing of Common Agricultural Policy Export refunds.
224	Beer exported on drawback as merchandise: examination and sampling.
241	European Economic Community: Compensatory Levy.
275	Documentation of Exports for Statistical Purposes.
276	Customs Entry forms in the C273 Series: Guidance on their completion.
290	Export of personal and household effects.
291	Effect of budget changes on claims for drawback.
300	Export reliefs scheduling scheme.
703	VAT – Exports.
704	VAT – Retail Export Schemes.
705	VAT – Tax free sales of motor vehicles to tourists, etc.
750 and Supplement	Community transit – this describes the system as a whole.
750A	List of Community Transit Offices.
750B	Community transit – Extension to cover Austria and Switzerland.
751 and Supplement	Notes on completing Community transit forms T1, T2 and T3 and Control Copy T forms.
751A	Notes on completing Community transit movement certificates.
752	Free circulation of goods in the European Community.
753	Community transit – the simplified procedure for goods carried by rail.
754	Community transit – Intra-Community treatment of the catches of fishing vessels registered in Member States.
755	Community transit – special control procedures.
756	Instructions on the use of loading lists as the descriptive part of Community transit forms T1, T2 and T3.
757	Community transit – Pre-authenticated movement certificate Form T3L.
774	Hydrocarbon Oils Customs Duties: Additions of *Ad Valorem* Protective Element.
800 (Aug 1975)	The European Economic Community. Common Agricultural Policy: Customs procedures in respect of export refunds, levies and licences.
810	EEC Preferences – Free Trade Agreements between the EEC and the EFTA countries.
810A	EEC Preferences – EFTA Countries. Simplification of the documentation system described in Notice 810. Introduction of universal form of movement certificate EUR 1.
811	EEC Preferences – Greece.
812	EEC Preferences – Turkey.
813, 813B	EEC Preferences – Israel.
814, 814B	EEC Preferences – Malta.
818	EEC Preferences – Egypt.
819	EEC Preferences – Cyprus.
820, 820A	EEC Preferences – Lebanon.
821	EEC Preferences – simplified procedure for sending evidence to EEC customers about the origin of goods.
825	The ACP/EEC Convention of Lomé: tariff preferences.
830	Arrangements between Denmark and United Kingdom.

Trade Information

Arrangements for exports under licence of non-alloy ferrous scrap to countries outside the European Community

Following consultations between the British Scrap Federation and the Department of Industry revised arrangements for issue of licences for the export of non-alloy ferrous scrap to countries outside the European Community will be introduced with effect from 1 July 1976.

The quota for the third quarter beginning 1 July 1976 has not yet been finalised but will be notified to the trade as soon as possible.

There are three main features of the new arrangements. Firstly actual export performance in all overseas markets during a base period will replace the present requirement of evidence of export contracts, as the basis for allocation of tonnages to be licensed to exporters. It follows that this will enable the department to give early advice of allocations which individual exporters may expect for the whole of the quarter, a development which will be welcomed by the trade. Thirdly there will be a qualifying minimum export performance. For the third quarter of 1976 the base period will be the 12 months ended 31 March 1976 and the minimum qualifying tonnage will be 7,500 tonnes. Export performance below this tonnage during the base period will be insufficient to qualify an exporter for eligibility for a licence for the third quarter of 1976.

Under the new arrangements it will be necessary for interested exporters to indicate their wish to be considered for an allocation under the quota with the Iron and Steel Division of the Department of Industry within 14 days from the date of this notice at the same time providing details of their exports over the base period. Applications will then be scrutinised, allocations determined and applicants informed of the allocation they can expect for the whole quarter. The new arrangements will retain many features of the present scheme. In order to qualify for licences applicants will, as before, need to provide documentary evidence of firm orders. Preference will continue to be given to established exporters. As before licences will normally be valid for two months and will be granted so as to spread exports as evenly as possible over the quarter. They will be granted only to qualified exporters on evidence of firm export orders from buyers in non-community countries to which the export is to be made. The detailed arrangements are set out in the following paragraphs of this notice.

For the quarter beginning 1 July 1976 export licences will be available for the following types of non-alloy ferrous scrap only:

1 compressed baled material, other than compressed unused sheet and sheet cuttings;
2 loose used wrought material containing 90 per cent or more, by weight, of a material of a thickness not exceeding 3mm;
3 turnings and borings.

Traders whose exports to all destinations against their own orders in the base period totalled 7,500 tonnes or more and who wish to be considered for an allocation under the quota for the period commencing 1 July are now invited to submit not later than 18 June 1976 particulars of the total tonnage of exports of non-alloy ferrous scrap against their own orders (ie orders on their own account, entirely excluding orders obtained by others) in each month of the base period of 12 months ended 31 March 1976 in the following form:

	To community countries	To other countries
a Exports against own orders		
b Exports against orders obtained by others		

This information should be forwarded to the Department of Industry, Iron and Steel Division, Thames House South (Room 724), Millbank, London SW1P 4QP. Although all the information supplied will be considered carefully, it should not be assumed that all exporters will necessarily be allocated a share of the quota.

When this information has been received and the amount of the quota is known individual allocations in respect of the whole of the quarter beginning 1 July will be determined. Applicants will be informed whether or not they have been granted an allocation but export licences will not be issued until they have submitted to the Department of Trade, Export Licensing Branch, supporting documentary evidence (in English) of firm orders to sell to a buyer in a non-Community country (subject to availability of UK export licence) stipulated tonnages of any one or more of the specified types of ferrous scrap in any stipulated period commencing not earlier than 1 July 1976. Telex messages giving full details will be accepted but must be followed within not more than two weeks thereafter by the written confirmation of the overseas buyer.

Licences, which will be valid for a period of not more than two months, will then be issued as appropriate against allocations. Further evidence of firm orders supplied by an applicant after the initial submission of such information will be taken into account

Social Trends No. 6

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until the allocation is exhausted. The validity of a licence will not normally be extended and under no circumstances will it be extended beyond the end of the quota period.

Export performance against licences issued will be taken into account in the consideration of subsequent allocations.

Continuation of the present relaxation of controls will depend on adequate supplies of ferrous scrap being maintained to UK users. No individual export licences are required for the export of ferrous scrap to community countries.

Trade inquiries should be addressed to the Department of Trade, Export Licensing Branch, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3DB.

Note

The present basis of allocating individual traders shares of the quota by reference to orders obtained was introduced on 1 July 1975 because the main criterion previously used of export performance in 1973 could no longer fairly be applied and the recorded pattern of exports after 1973 did not provide a fair basis either because of the effect of export controls. A system based mainly on past export performance is considered to be more equitable and because traders have been able for well over a year (ie since 1 January 1975) freely to export ferrous scrap to Community countries such a system is now being introduced.

Application for temporary exemption from import duty

The Department of Trade is considering an application for the temporary exemption from import duty of the material listed below on the grounds that it is not made in this country or that the supply available is not substantial having regard to the existing United Kingdom demand.

Representations are invited from manufacturers in this country who consider they are, or will be within a reasonable period, in a position to supply a substantial proportion of the United Kingdom demand for this material, or who are interested in its future production.

Temporary exemptions come into effect on the operative date of the Treasury Order in which the materials are specified and will remain in operation until the date shown in column 4 below or for such shorter period as may be justified.

Interested parties who wish to make representations should address them to General Division, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, preferably through a Trade Association, giving the reference shown below and stating whether their names may be passed to the applicants for temporary exemption.

Representations should be received by 18 June 1976.

Tariff heading	Proposed definition for tariff purposes	Applied for as	Exemption required until	Reference
29.31	Cyclohexanethiol	As in previous column	30 June 1977	T 15737

Telephone inquiries to Import Licensing Branch

Telephone extension numbers of Sections dealing with particular subjects in Import Licensing Branch are listed below:

Telephone switchboard: 01-603 4644

	Extension number
State Trading Country Quotas (including textile goods)	
1 East Europe other than foodstuffs	278
2 Foodstuffs	379
3 Peoples' Republic of China	238
Products subject to Japanese auto-limitation arrangements	379
Firearms and jute	276
Gold coins, goods from Rhodesia	278
Hong Kong textile quotas	275
Spain and Portugal textile quotas	268
Korea and Taiwan textile quotas	311
India, Pakistan and other textile quotas not elsewhere specified	367
Textiles Import Surveillance	
1 Yarns and fabrics	241 or 250
2 Made up goods	291 or 292
Other surveillance licensing	276
General inquiries about items not specified above	264 or 265

ECGD-backed loan for oxygen plant

Loan of £7.6 million for South Korean industry. The Export Credits Guarantee Department has guaranteed a £7.6 million loan which Lazard Brothers and Co. Ltd. acting on behalf of Barclays Bank and Lloyds Bank Ltd. has made available to Pohang Iron and Steel Co. Ltd., South Korea.

The loan will help finance a contract won by Air Products Ltd. of New Malden, Surrey, for the supply and commissioning of two oxygen plants with storage and argon purification units.

The plants will be designed and fabricated by Air Products at its factories at New Malden and Acrefair in North Wales. Commissioning of the plant is scheduled for late 1978.

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Tariff and Trade Notices

Norway

Ban on the sale of certain food utensils: further information. *Trade and Industry* of 21 May 1976 announced that the Norwegian authorities had issued regulations banning the sale of certain food utensils which give off dangerous quantities of poison. Handout copies of an unofficial translation of these regulations are now available from OTAR. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Netherlands

Margarine, mayonnaise and salad cream. Decrees dated 27 April 1976 (*Staatsblad*'s 262 and 263), published on 20 May 1976 and effective from 22 May 1976 modify the Margarine Decree and Mayonnaise and Salad Cream Decree, respectively. The modification concerns the use of erucic acid in these products.

Copies of this decree (in Dutch) are available. An English translation should be available in about a month's time. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Belgium

Excise duties on cigarettes. The *Moniteur Belge* No. 91 of 8 May 1976 published a decree dated 5 May 1976 amending the excise duties on cigarettes. The special duty levied in addition to the *ad valorem* and specific excise duties on cigarettes manufactured in or imported into Belgium has been increased to 3.35 per cent of the retail price plus 0.009 franc per cigarette, the cumulative total of the *ad valorem*, specific, and special excise duties not being less than 0.60 franc per cigarette. The decree entered into force on 9 May 1976. Copies of the decree (in French) are available.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Portugal

Toxic substances in food utensils. The Portuguese authorities have issued Decree-Law 143/76 which sets out requirements for the prevention of contamination of food or drink through the release of toxic substances in food utensils. Under the provisions of the decree, customs clearance of imported utensils made from earthenware, glass, metals or enamelled metals, will be conditional on the production of a certificate stating that the goods comply with approved standards. Certificates are issued by the Instituto Nacional de Investigacao Industrial, or other bodies authorised by them, who may consider a quality certificate issued by a laboratory in the country of origin as sufficient. The goods must bear an indelible mark identifying the manufacturer or importer. This mark must also appear on the certificate of quality. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Duty exemptions. *Diario Da Republica* (formerly *Diario do Governo*) No. 98 of 26 April 1976 published Decree-Law 301/76, which announced that the Minister of Finance may grant reductions or exemptions from duty and other charges on materials, machinery, apparatus, components accessories and spare parts to be used exclusively in the manufacture of refrigerator cabinets by firms in the process of changing their production to approved products.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

The granting of such concessions will be considered when Portuguese industry cannot supply the goods on comparable terms of price, quality and delivery times.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Italy

Chemical additives to foodstuffs. The Italian *Oficial Gazette* of 5 May 1976 published a ministerial decree setting out the modifications to the list of chemical additives permitted in the preparation of foodstuffs.

These cover preparations for puddings and ice-cream, extracts for juices and syrups, blends from which the fermenting chemicals can be obtained and labelling requirements of foodstuffs intended for household use. The decree is effective from 1 January 1977. Copies are available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 466/467/288.

Additives to animal feedingstuffs. The Italian *Official Gazette* of 10 May 1976 published three ministerial decrees relating to the additives in animal feedingstuffs bringing into force the regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with the relevant EEC council directives as follows:

Additives in animal feedingstuffs: 76/13/EEC of 15 December 1975

Undesirable substances and products in animal feedingstuffs: 76/14/EEC of 15 December 1975

Withdrawal of additives in animal feedingstuffs: 70/524/EEC of 23 November 1970 (as amended)

The above decrees are effective from 1 April 1976, 30 March 1976 and 1 July 1976, respectively. Copies of the Italian decrees are available from OTAR Section. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 466/467/288.

Yugoslavia

Commodity quota. The following quotas have been set for 1976 for purchases of unprocessed gold from domestic or foreign suppliers:

1 for decorations and metals, 2kg
2 for dental applications, 1,060kg
3 for scientific requirements, 36,325kg
4 for industrial requirements, 698kg
5 for jewellery manufacture, 5,195.675kg
6 other, 2,500kg

Manufacturers of gold are entitled to a further quantity of gold for processing to the extent of 50 per cent of the surplus of 1976 production over 1975 production in addition to the amount of at least 1,301kg of gold from the quotas at 4 and 5 above. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Special tax. According to the Yugoslav *Official Gazette* No. 15 of 16 April 1976 imports of 'sailing docks for use in the repair of ships, carrying capacity over 25,000 BRT (heading No. 89.03/1 of the Customs Tariff) for which a resolution about customs contingent was passed' are subject to a special tax of 5 per cent for the duration of 1976. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 288/466/467.

Greece

Import lists. Greek Government Regulation 95577/13029/1171 of 24 December 1975 stated that with effect from 1 January 1976 many items have been transferred between import lists. The main items are:

Tariff no.	Description	From	To
16.04	Tinned sardines, whole	F50-1	F
22.01	Waters, mineral and aerated waters, etc., lemonade, beer	F200	F50-2
22.07		F200	F100-1
22.09A	Grape must, wines, vermouth, etc., cider, perry,	F200	F50-2
22.09B	mead, ethyl alcohol undenatured of 80° or	F200	F100-1
22.09C-E	lower liqueurs and other spirits, etc., vinegar,	F200	F100-2
22.10	etc.	F200	F100-1
85.14	Microphones, loudspeakers, audio frequency electric amplifiers	F100-1	F
85.15A3	Receivers, whether or not combined with sound	F200	F
ex 85.15C	recorders. Or reproducers, television aerials. Assembled or not	F200	P
ex 85.15C	Components used in selecting channels for TV receivers	F200	F
87.09	Motor cars, bicycles (motor cycles) and cycles fitted with an auxiliary motor	F100-1	F

The transfers mean that the Greek importer need pay a lower deposit than previously, or in the case of tinned sardines, motor cars, bicycles (motor cycles) and cycles fitted with an auxiliary motor; no deposit at all. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 439.

Imports of electrical equipment. The Greek Government is now enforcing more strictly a presidential decree of 1935. The aim is to restrict the uncontrolled use of electrical equipment imported mainly from countries other than those of Europe and America. It is believed that some delay to imported equipment has resulted.

Imported British electrical equipment should be accompanied by the necessary safety certificate, issued by the manufacturer, attesting that the equipment has been manufactured in accordance with the specifications in force in the UK. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 439.

South Africa

Tariff application. Customs Tariff Application List 17/76, published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 28 May 1976, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on:

1 Tubular and conical glass chimneys for paraffin refrigerators and oil or gas lamps classifiable under tariff subheadings 70.14.20 and 70.14.30.

2 Glass bottles and vials classifiable under tariff subheading 70.10.90, and

3 Glass ampoules classifiable under tariff subheading 70.17.30.

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE 01-215 5274.

Preservatives and antioxidants, labelling and advertising. *Government Gazette* No. 5114 of 14 May 1976 contains proposals to amend the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act by issuing new regulations covering the use of preservatives and antioxidants in foodstuffs and revised requirements for labelling and advertising. Any comments on the proposals should reach the Secretary for Health, Private Bag X88, Pretoria 0001 by 13 August 1976. Copies of the proposals are available. Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5274.

Australia

Animal foods, etc.: pharmaceutical and veterinary products: draft reports released. The Industries Assistance Commission has released copies of its draft reports on animal foods, etc., and pharmaceutical and veterinary products in order that interested parties may have an opportunity to examine and comment on them within the commission's public inquiry system before the reports are finally settled.

Submissions should be received by the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600 Australia, by 1 June 1976. Copies of the reports may be obtained on loan, from Room 336, Department of Trade, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 1034/74 and 1262/74.

Chlorodifluoromethane (Fluorocarbon-22): temporary protection. The Department of Industry and Commerce has received a request for temporary protection against imports of chlorodifluoromethane (fluorocarbon-22) falling within item 29.02.200 (4x) of the Australian Customs Tariff.

Interested parties, for or against, may submit their views to the Department for consideration. Requests for temporary protection are

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ENCIRCLE TI 48 ON PAGE 631 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

OTAR: help for exporters

Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Services and Promotion Division, Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757) can give you directly, or through your Regional Office, up-to-date information on the tariffs and customs regulations of overseas countries, import licensing regulations and restrictions including import quotas; certificate of origin; consular invoices and fees; labelling and marking requirements; foodstuffs, drugs and pharmaceuticals and the imports of samples. It also provides information, in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, on health regulations for livestock, meat, animal products and plants and seeds. In short, OTAR can help on almost all legislation which affects the entry of British goods into overseas countries.

Inquiries which concern the countries of more than one sub-section (excluding inquiries involving only EEC countries) should be made to OTAR's co-ordination sub-section on 01-248 5757 extension 452 or 454.

For information in respect of specific countries,

ring

01-248 5757 ext.

▼ Sub-section A
Co-ordination of EEC inquiries; common customs tariff (CCT); Denmark; France and overseas territories; Greece; Turkey

408 EEC legislation on tariff and non-tariff barriers relative to community trade
482 EEC common agricultural policy – aspects affecting exports
7174 Denmark (incl. Faroe Islands and Greenland)
423 France and overseas departments, French overseas territories
439 Greece (incl. Dodecanese Islands), Turkey

Sub-section B
Benelux; Dutch overseas territories; Irish Republic; Italy; Federal Republic of Germany; Eastern Bloc; China

467 Federal Republic of Germany
288 Netherlands, Netherland Antilles, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, St. Eustatius, St. Martin (Dutch), Saba, Surinam, Yugoslavia
466 Irish Republic, Albania, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, USSR
288 Belgium, Luxembourg
466 Italy

Sub-section C
Efta: Portuguese overseas territories; N. Africa and Israel

459 Norway, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland
458 Israel, Egypt
460 Portugal, Finland, Iceland, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde Islands, Macao, Principe, Sao Tome, Timor
461 Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria

Sub-section D
South and Central America

476 Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama
474 Argentina, Chile, British Antarctica Territory and Antarctica, Cuba, Haiti, Uruguay, Bolivia, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, Falkland Islands

Sub-section E
Australasia and South East Asia

401 New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, W. Samoa, Chatham Island, Cook Island, Niue Island, Tokelau Isles
468 Australia, Solomon Islands, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Islands (Indian Ocean), Nauru, Papua New Guinea, New Hebrides, Philippines
469 Brunei, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Tonga, Gilbert Islands (incl. Ocean Island, Phoenix Island, Line Island), Tuvalu, Norfolk Island, Pitcairn Island

Sub-section G
Middle and Far East

420 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, India, Japan, N. Korea, S. Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, Taiwan, Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen PDR
475 Cambodia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lower Gulf States (Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, United Arab Emirates), Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, N. Vietnam, S. Vietnam

Sub-section F
North America; Bahamas; West Indies, etc.

7312 Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize (British Honduras), Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad, Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands
455 Canada
456 USA (incl. Alaska, Caroline Island, Guam, Hawaii Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands), Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Samoa (US), Virgin Islands (US), Wake Island

Sub-section H
Spain and possessions: Mediterranean; Africa; Sri Lanka

462 Spain, Spanish Sahara, Ceuta and Melilla, Andorra
471 Ascension Island, British Indian Ocean Territory, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Sri Lanka, S. Africa (with Lesotho, Swaziland, S. W. Africa and Botswana), Somali, St. Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Maldive Islands, Malta, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles
472 Burundi, Cameroon, Canary Islands, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), The People's Republic of Benin, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Gabon, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malagasy Republic, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Upper Volta, Zaire, Equatorial Guinea
473 The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rhodesia, Sierra Leone, Zambia

initially received and considered by the Department. They may be referred later to the Temporary Assistance Authority for inquiry and report within 30 days of the date of the reference.

Any temporary protection which may be accorded the goods by the Government after receipt of the report by the Temporary Assistance Authority would be in the nature of a holding action pending government consideration of the question of long term protection for the local industry following inquiry and report by the Industries Assistance Commission.

Exporters should note that it has been made clear that, should the need for urgent action emerge from these inquiries, goods ordered but not cleared for home consumption at the date of the announcement, will be subject to the terms of the action. Australian importers therefore have been urged to exercise caution in placing orders overseas and in entering into financial commitments on such orders as special consideration may not be given to outstanding commitments should action be taken by the Government.

Evidence must be formally submitted at the public hearing, either by a nominated representative of the firm or trade association concerned or through the Australian British Trade Association, 21 Tothill Street, London SW1 (01-799 7447), who will represent UK interests if authorised. The Association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member. UK firms or trade associations intending to submit evidence should advise the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia, as soon as possible through their accredited agent. Ref. CRE 287/76. Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.

Crude oil pricing: Industries Assistance Commission inquiry. The Minister for Business and Consumer Affairs in Australia, having due regard for the desirability of appropriate encouragement of oil exploration and development, has asked the Industries Assistance Commission to inquire into and report on the question, what pricing levels of indigenous crude oil should apply during the period ending 17 September 1980 for oil produced from (a) fields presently producing oil, (b) fields discovered before 14 September 1975 but not yet in production, and (c) expansions and extensions of fields presently producing oil but which would require installation of substantial new facilities to recover the oil.

Pools discovered by wells drilled after 14 September 1975 and which after drilling are classified as new field discovery, new pool discovery, deeper pool discovery and shallower pool discovery are excluded from this reference.

Expansions and extensions of fields presently producing oil are those made in order to drain extensions of the field which otherwise would not be drained or to achieve a higher percentage recovery of oil from parts of the field now being produced.

The Commission has been asked to report on this matter by 30 September 1976. Intending witnesses may submit evidence at the public hearings, either through a nominated representative or through the Australian British Trade Association, 21 Tothill Street, London SW1 (01-799 7447), who will represent UK interests if authorised. The Association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member. UK firms or trade assoiations intending to submit evidence should advise the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, ACT 2600, Australia, without delay. Ref. CRE 286/76. Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section,
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

Belize

Customs tariff. The new single-tier Belize Customs Tariff, implemented on 20 March 1976, has adopted the BTN classification system. A copy of the tariff is now held in OTAR Section.

Revenue replacement duty
By SI No. 20 of 1976, the Belize authorities have amended the rates of Revenue Replacement Duty as follows:

BTN heading	Description	Rate of duty (*ad valorem*)
17.04	Sugar confectionery, not containing cocoa	15%
33.06.9	Perfumery, cosmetics and toilet preparations other than bay rum, shampoo, toothpaste and tooth powder	25%
ex 87.02 (SITC 732.1)	Motor cars for the transport of persons (including station wagons but excluding vehicles of the type commonly described as Land Rover, jeep or Mini-moke and such like admitted as such by the Comptroller of Customs)	a On the first $3,000 cif, 15% b On that part of the cif value in excess of $3,000, 40%
ex 90.07	Photographic cameras	15%
90.08	Cinematographic cameras, projectors, sound recorders and sound reproducers; any combination of these articles	5%
91.01	Pocket-watches, wrist watches and other watches, including stop-watches	5%
ex 92.12.9	Gramophone records, and other sound or similar recordings	25%

Inquiries from British exporters about this notice should specify the products in which they are interested, and should be addressed to OTAR Section, Export Data Branch, Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, 01-248 5757 ext. 7312/456/457.

Peru

List of permitted imports. Supreme Decree No. 013-76-CO/CE, referred to by Decree Law 21493, publishes a complete list of all the goods whose importation is permitted. Inquiries (British exporters should specify the products with which they are concerned): OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Brazil

Reference price waived on titanium dioxide. Customs Policy Council Resolution 2752, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 13 April 1976, waived the application of the reference price on rutile type titanium dioxide, unmilled, with a purity of 99 per cent, under tariff heading 28.25.01.02.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Duty reduction on titanium oxide. Customs Policy Council Resolution 2751, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 13 April 1976, reduced the duty on a quota of 5,000 tonnes of rutile type titanium dioxide, unground, with a purity of 99 per cent, under tariff heading 28.25.01.02, from 37 per cent to 20 per cent. The concession will have a period of validity of one year, lapsing on the 13 April 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Exemptions from duty and manufactured goods tax on products for the Itaipu hydro-electric power station. Decree-Law 1450, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 25 March 1976, granted exemption from import duty and Manufactured Goods Tax (IPI) to goods not having a national similar imported by the contractors for the Itaipu hydro-electric power scheme, provided these can be shown to be for use solely in the exploitation of the water resources of the Parana River.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Proposed duty abolition on nitro quinoline methane sulphonate. Customs Policy Council Edital 811, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 13 April 1976, made known that the Council was considering a proposed duty abolition on 2-isopropylaminomethyl-6-methyl-7-nitro-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-quinoline-metasulphonate (nitro quinoline methane sulphonate), under tariff heading 29.35.99.00. The current rate of duty is 15 per cent. There is no further information available at present.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Proposed duty abolition on titanium. Customs Policy Council Edital 810, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 29 March 1976, made known that the Council was considering a proposed duty reduction on titanium as shown below:

Tariff no.	Goods	Duty rate	
		Current	Under study
81.04.09.00	Titanium:		
01	Unworked	15%	0%
02	Filament, thread, sheet, strip, etc.	120%	0%
03	Waste and residue	15%	0%
99	Other	130%	0%

No further information is available at present.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Duty exemption for agricultural chemicals. Customs Policy Council Resolution 2,750, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 13 April 1976, exempted the following chemicals from import duty, under the provisions of Resolution 2,259, of 15 October 1974.

Tariff no.	Product
29.25.99.00	Monomethyl-2-chloro acetoacetamide
29.25.99.00	Dimethyl-2-chloro acetoacetamide
29.21.99.00	Trimethyl phosphite

The above chemicals are exempted from import duty only when intended solely for agricultural use.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Industrial duty concessions. Customs Policy Council Resolutions nos. 2,717, 2,718 and 2,719, all published in the *Diario Oficial* of 9 March 1976, granted the following industrial duty concessions:

A A reduction of 50 per cent of the import duty on equipment, machinery, apparatus or instruments, provided there are no national similars, where these are imported by public bodies and mixed economy companies operating rail, underground or water public transport services, airports, hydraulic systems manufacture, the generation, transmission and distribution of electric energy, telecommunications, concessionary companies producing piped combustible gas; when the said imports are essential for the construction, expansion or conservation of the importer's installations.

B A reduction of 50 per cent of the import duty on equipment, machinery, apparatus or instruments, provided there are no national similars, where these are imported by public works or service contractors and are intended solely for use in the execution of approved projects or programmes for public works or services, provided the beneficiary is included in one of the following sectors: rail, road or underground transport, ports, airports, hydraulic systems manufacture, the generation, transmission and distribution of electric energy, telecommunications, steel, the research and drilling of wells and the production of petroleum.

C A reduction of 40 per cent of the import duty is granted for essential replacement parts and components for the industrial sectors mentioned in B).

The concessions granted under A and B above apply also to spare parts imported with the equipment, provided that the value of the spares does not exceed 10 per cent of the machinery they accompany.

The concession granted under C is subject to proof to CACEX that such parts are unobtainable in Brazil or that their production in Brazil is economically unfeasible. This concession does not apply to moulds or stamps of any kind nor to any other parts subject to a high rate of wear, such as cutting blades, grindstones, drills, tyres, etc.

The concessions under A and C apply only to shipments for which an import licence for more than US$5,000 has been issued.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5357 ext. 476/474.

Registered trade marks

The lists of tariff, customs and import regulation changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

Import duty reduction – aluminium and its alloys. Customs Policy Council Resolution no. 2,746, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 6 April 1976, reduced the import duty on 'primary aluminium and its alloys' of tariff headings 76.01.01.00 and 76.01.02.00, from its previous rate of 37 per cent to 10 per cent. This concession came into force on the date of publication and will have a period of validity of up to one year.

Duty reduction – aluminium waste. Customs Policy Council Resolution no. 2,749, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 13 April 1976, reduced the import duty on aluminium waste and residues, under tariff heading 76.01.03.00, from 37 per cent to 5 per cent. The concession will have a period of validity of one year, lapsing on 13 April 1977.

Duty reduction – chloroethylene. Customs Policy Council Resolution no. 2,742, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 8 April 1976, reduced the import duty on a quota of 26,500 tonnes of chloroethylene, of tariff heading 29.02.12.00, from 30 per cent to 10 per cent.

The concession came into force on the date of publication and has a period of validity of one year, lapsing on 8 April 1977.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Import duty increase – malva purpurea nuts. Customs Policy Council Resolution no. 2,741, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 13 March 1976, increased the import duty on malva purpurea nuts, under tariff heading 10.07.99.00, from its previous rate of 10 per cent to 30 per cent.

Import duty increase – diodes. Customs Policy Council Resolution No. 2,744, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 13 April 1976, increased the import duty on diodes of germanium, copper oxide, selenium or other material, under heading 85.21.12.00, from 15 per cent to 45 per cent.

This variation came into force on the date of publication and will have a period of validity of two years, lapsing on 13 April 1978.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Duty exemption – agricultural tractors. Customs Policy Council Resolution no. 2,748, published in the *Diario Oficial* of 6 March 1976, granted duty exemption on the following types of agricultural tractors, provided that the Ministerio da Agricultura has given prior recognition that the tractors are solely for use in agriculture:

Tariff no.	Specification of tractor
87.01.04.00	Four-wheel tractor, with all wheels of equal size, of a power exceeding 147 cv at the winch (Nebrasca test or equivalent), four-wheel drive
87.01.04.00	Four-wheel tractor, with narrow track not exceeding 1.35m, four-wheel drive, with a minimum power of 20cv and a maximum of 30cv, with hydraulic lifting system, a three-point coupling and a limited slip differential
87.01.07.00	Four-wheel forestal tractor for the handling of logs, with four interchangeable driving wheels, articulated chassis and hydraulic steering

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries inc. shipping	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1970	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,472	9,380	2,130	2,090							
Series in						£ million				£ million		
1970	100	100	100	100	100	425	325	68	−30	735	−25	760
1971	102	103	102	93	104	70	−148	52	−10	1,058	280	778
1972	104	109	104	82	117	−18	−175	48	−11	131	−702	833
1973	110	114	107	88	125	1064	396	102	334	−842	−2,332	1,490
1974	110	113	105	98	113	597	666	81	−68	−3,650	−5,264	1 614
1975	108	113	104	85	98	−652	−386	−111	6	−1,702	−3,200	1,498
1973 3rd qtr.	110	114	107	92	120	181	46	29	47	−256	−625	369
4th qtr.	109	114	107	89	132	205	96	32	51	−373	−950	577
1974 1st qtr	106	112	108	97	112	−176	−31	18	−59	−855	−1,297	442
2nd qtr.	110	112	100	96	110	295	191	43	27	−969	−1,366	397
3rd qtr.	112	113	103	97	119	373	368	3	−14	−861	−1,253	392
4th qtr.	111	114	107	101	113	105	139	17	−22	−965	−1,348	383
1975 1st qtr.	110	115	106	93	101	−176	−4	−31	−57	−435	−850	415
2nd qtr.	107	112	102	86	100	−254	−112	−54	−52	−336	−681	345
3rd qtr.	107	111	107	82	101	−156	−204	−29	60	−625	−986	361
4th qtr.	108	112	101	80	92	−66	−66	14	55	−306	−683	377
1976 1st qtr.				81 p	89		−5	16	−17	−71	−431	360
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	−0.8	−1.9	−0.2	−3.8	−10.0							
on a year earlier	−3.6	−2.0	−1.2	−17.0	−16.1							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Visible Trade	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Exports	Imports
				monthly averages						thousands		thousands	On a balance of payments basis	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972				1970	1970
£m in base year			15,895											
Series in				thousands										
1971	100.4	99 6	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	106.7	104.2
1972	102.6	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	855.0	3.7	147.3	106.6	116.3
1973	110.2	110.9	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	121.8	133.9
1974	106.1	107.8	109.9	102 8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.5ø	2.6ø	302.2ø	130.1	135.2
1975	100.9	101.4	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.8	929.0	4.0	148.2ø	124.9	125.6
1974 2nd qtr.	107.6	109.3	107.8	105	107.5	15.8	213.7	148.9	132.3	577.4	2.5	318.4	134.0	137.5
3rd qtr.	107.9	109.6	111.2	107	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	613.7	2.6	308.7	133.4	136.4
4th qtr.	104.7	105.6	111.3	97	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	126.5	133.0
1975 1st qtr.	104.6	106.1	111.3	108	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	737.9	3.2	..	128.9	125.4
2nd qtr.	99.8	100 0	108.9	94	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	847.4	3.6	164.4	122.6	122.2
3rd qtr.	99.5	99.9	105 5	103	139.4	26 6	239.3	193.4	185.5	1,000.0	4.3	133.6	120.0	127.4
4th qtr.	99.8	99.8	105.8	85	144.2	25.3	256.0	199.1	193.8	1,132.1	4.9	113.6	128.3	127.2
1976 1st qtr.	101.1 p	101.7 p	107.3	106	149.4	22.5	266.1 p	206.9 p	205.4	1,223.2	5.2	115.5	132.2	123.4
1975 Apr.	101.1	101 4	120 0	95	129.1	21 7	222.9	182.5	170.1	798.3	3.4	180.8	114.5	124.0
May	99.1	99.1	103.7	95	134.5	25.0	226.2	187.3	176.4	850.3	3.6	163.3	133.0	119.9
June	99.1	99.4	104.1	91	137.1	26 1	227.7	189.0	182.6	893.5	3.8	149.0	120.2	122.7
July	100.1	100.6	105.4	91	138.5	26.3	233.2	191.7	184.8	968.2	4.1	133.9	123.0	134.3
Aug.	98.5	98.8	104.8	98	139.3	26.9	241.4	193.5	185.6	997.4	4.3	135.9	115.2	124.9
Sept.	100.0	100.3	108.1	120	140.5	26.6	243.2	194.9	186.0	1,034.4	4.4	131.1	121.9	123.1
Oct.	100.2	100.5	104.8	85	142.5	25.9	252.3	197.0	187.5	1,088.7	4.7	118.9	130.5	128.9
Nov.	100.2	100 5	105.2	81	144.2	25.2	256.7	198.9	195.6	1,133.0	4.9	111.8	123.4	128.0
Dec.	98.8	98.5	107.0	87	146.0	24.9	259.0	201.5	198.2	1,174.6	5.0	110.1	130.9	124.7
1976 Jan.	100.7	102.0	109.8	115	147.9	23.4	261.0	204.8	202.0	1,210.5	5.2	111.1	131.9	124.5
Feb.	101.6	101.8	107.1	101	149.8	22.9	263 5	207.3	206.3	1,232.4	5.3	113.5	129.2	125.8
Mar.	101.0 p	101.3 p	105.5	101	150.6	21.2	273.7 p	208.5 p	207.8	1,226.6	5.3	122.0	135.6	120.0
Apr.			108 p	118	153.5	18.9	284.7 p	211.2 p	209.0	1,233.7	5.3	123.9	136.7 p	132.6 p
May										1,250.0p	5.4	120.6 p		
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+1.3	+1.9	−0.5	+13.5	+3.6		+5.8	+3.6	+4.6	+2.6		+9.5	+4	+1
on a year earlier	−3.4	−4.2	−5.8	+6.5	+20.9		+23.9	+16.6	+24.3	+54.0		−31.9	+8	+2½

p Provisional † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available ø Average of 11 months

British Film Fund Agency returns

The British Film Fund Agency has authorised the publication of the following information for the four weeks ended 24 April 1976.

Distributors' earnings submitted	£
Low cost films:	
Eligible (after multiplying by 2½)	72,533
Not eligible for 2½ times rental	21,979
	94,512
High cost films (including newsreels after multiplying by 2½)	333,548
	428,060
Films under 3,000 ft (after multiplying by 2½)	58,417
	486,477
Levy collections paid to the Agency by HM Customs and Excise to 4 May 1976 including an estimate of collections approximately covering entertainments for the four weeks ended 24 April 1976	304,000

The sixth interim allocation for the nineteenth year will be at the rate of 60 per cent.

Symbols used in all statistical tables

.. not available	r revised
— nil or less than half the final digit shown	* five week period
p provisional	ø fifty-three week period

Regional selective assistance

The table below shows, on a regional basis, the applications received and offers made under Section 7 of the Industry Act for February 1976.

	Applications received	Offers made	
Region	No.	No.	Value (£000)
Scotland	16	15	743
Wales	15	12	946
Northern	20	10	94
North West	19	8	383
Yorks/Humberside	18	16	119
South West	3	9	167
East Midlands	2	—	—
West Midlands	—	—	—
Total	93	70	2,452

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 28 May 1976.
BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Steve Harley And Cockney Rebel In Between The Lines	BR/E 38609/30/5/81	30	24 May	EMI Film Distributors Ltd.	Samphire Ltd.
Gateway To The Presidents	BR/E 38612/30/5/81	12	27 May	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Global Films Ltd. and Queensway Promotions Ltd.
Movietone News 2451	BR/E 38359/30/5/81	8	28 May	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			COMMUNITY		
Cat At Night	EC 38614/30/5/81	57	28 May	Cinecenta Film Distributors Ltd.	Diana Films, Boulogne
French Blue	EC 38616/30/5/81	74	28 May	New Realm Distributors Ltd.	VM Productions and FFCM, Paris
Black Leather Pants	EC 38617/30/5/81	79	28 May	New Realm Distributors Ltd.	Lisa-Film GmbH, Munich
			FOREIGN		
Group Marriage	F 38607	90	24 May	Saga Film Distributors Ltd.	Dimension International Sales Corporation, California
Centrefold Girls	F 38608	91	24 May	Saga Film Distributors Ltd.	Key Pictures Inc., California
The Stoolie	F 38610	88	27 May	Fox-Rank Distributors Ltd.	Jama Productions Inc., New York
Robin And Marian	F 38611	107	27 May	Columbia-Warner Distributors Ltd.	Columbia Pictures, London
Blazing Guns	F 38613	89	27 May	Miracle Films Ltd.	Lea Film, Rome and C, C, Astro, Madrid
Gator	F 38586	116	27 May	United Artists Corporation Ltd.	Levy-Gardner-Laren Productions Inc., California
Jungle Sex	F 38615	67	28 May	Cinecenta Film Distributors Ltd.	Entertainment Pyramid, California
Last Snows Of Spring	F 38618	87	28 May	GTO Films (Distributions) Ltd.	Sitoro, Rome
Great	F 38619	26	28 May	British Lion Films Ltd.	Grantstern Ltd., London

Note:
The registration number F 38586 allocated on 4 May 1976 to the film 'Super Pink' has been withdrawn on receipt of evidence that this film is already registered and re-allocated to the film 'Gator'.

Time Rates of Wages and Hours of Work

A volume of tables giving particulars of the minimum, or standard, time rates of wages for the more important industries and occupations, and of the normal weekly hours for which these rates are payable. The details given relate to the position as at April 1, 1974, but any later changes known to have come into operation are shown.

£2.60 (*by post* £2.82).

HMSO BOOKS

New companies registered

Below are details of new companies registered in Great Britain during April 1976 showing nominal capital. The figures are exclusive of unlimited companies and companies limited by guarantee.

Nominal capital	Total	Public companies	Private companies
Not exceeding £100	2,851	—	2,851
Over £100 but under £1,000	42	—	42
£1,000 but under £10,000	791	—	791
£10,000 but under £50,000	343	—	343
£50,000 but under £100,000	61	—	61
£100,000 but under £1,000,000	60	—	60
£1,000,000 and over	2	—	2
Total number	4,150	—	4,150
	£ thous.	£ thous.	£ thous.
Total amount of nominal capital	22,354	—	22,354

Companies registered in Great Britain in 1975 and 1976

	1975		1976	
	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.	Number	Nominal capital £ thous.
January	3,648	18,631	3,476	21,780
February	3,442	22,886	4,088	19,228
March	3,478	22,419	6,190	41,680
April	4,944	24,352	4,150	22,354
May	4,245	42,314		
June	3,465	20,856		
July	3,752	26,703		
August	3,267	47,668		
September	3,781	32,241		
October	3,879	25,224		
November	3,739	35,028		
December	3,450	27,881		
Total	45,090	346,203		

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ENCIRCLE TI 54 ON PAGE 631 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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	1975	1974
Turnover	**£12,400,000**	£10,400,000
Profit before tax	**£1,702,000**	£1,520,000
Earnings per share	**16.9p**	15.6p
Dividends	**4.131p**	3.79p

At the A.G.M. Mr. H. P. Barker, Chairman, commented—

Overseas companies (South Africa excepted) made a handsome contribution to profits. Direct exports from the UK were at record levels.

The fire at our Edgware instrument factory totally destroyed one finished goods warehouse but only caused light damage to the main producing departments. Reconstruction is nearly complete but lost sales will not be fully recovered this year.

In 1976 we will benefit from the acquisition of the remaining 50% of the Hammond Organ business and we shall be relieved from South African losses. Despite some current weakness in the home market we expect to maintain progress.

Copies of the 1975 Report and Accounts are available on request from the Secretary, Boosey & Hawkes Ltd., 295, Regent Street, London, W1R 8JH.

ENCIRCLE TI 47 ON PAFE 631 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

'Energy Trends' – small rise in energy consumption

Total inland energy consumption – on a primary fuel input basis – was 1 per cent higher in the first quarter of 1976 than in the same period last year, allowing for seasonal adjustment and temperature correction.

This increase was caused by a 14 per cent rise in natural gas consumption. Coal consumption was at about the same level as last year, and petroleum consumption dropped by about 2 per cent.

These figures appear in the current issue of *Energy Trends*, the Department of Energy's monthly statistical bulletin.

Coal – another drop in output

Deep-mined coal output in the first four months of the year was more than 7 per cent down on the same period last year, but this fall in production was partly offset by a 10 per cent rise in open-cast output.

Power station coal consumption rose by 3 per cent in the months January-April, but overall coal consumption fell by about 2 per cent.

More gas growth

Total gas sent out in the four months January-April 1976 was nearly 8.5 per cent higher than in the same months of last year.

Town gas supplies are still falling, and now account for only a little over 2 per cent of total gas sent out, compared with nearly 8 per cent a year ago.

Electricity – 25 per cent drop in oil burn

Power station oil consumption in the first three months of 1976 was more than 25 per cent down on the same period last year.

Coal and natural gas consumption rose by 6 and 17 per cent, respectively, in January-March.

Total electricity supplied during the first three months of 1976 was 1.3 per cent lower than last year.

Petroleum – product deliveries rise

Total deliveries of petroleum products during the first quarter of this year were nearly 2.5 per cent lower than in 1975, but higher deliveries than a year ago were recorded in both February and March.

Fuel oil output was down by 12.5 per cent in January-March, but output of motor spirit, burning oil and gas/diesel all showed a rise of about 9.5 per cent on last year's levels.

Value of fuel imports and exports

A table showing the value of external trade in fuels is included in the bulletin. A notable feature of this is the reduction in 1975 of nearly £400 million in the value of crude oil imports compared with the previous year. This was due to a drop of over 24 million tons in the volume of crude oil imported.

Business Monitors

The following titles and issues of Business Monitors are now available

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PM 332	Metal-working machine tools for January and February 1976
PM 423	Foam backing, foam laminating and fabric to fabric bonding for March 1976
PM 476	Imported timber for March 1976

Quarterly at 74p each a year post free:

PQ 273	Toilet preparations for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 322	Copper, brass and other copper alloys for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 335	Textile machinery and accessories for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 339.3	Refrigerating machinery, space-heating, ventilating and air-conditioning equipment for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 369.4	Electric lamps, electric light fittings, wiring accessories, etc. for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 433	Fur for fourth quarter 1975
PQ 489	General printing and publishing for fourth quarter 1975

Service and distributive series

Monthly:

SD 8	Instalment credit business of retailers for March 1976

Quarterly

SD 9	Computer services for fourth quarter 1975

Business Monitors in the Production series and Miscellaneous series, and certain Monitors (Nos. SD 1 to SD 9) in the Service and Distributive series, are normally available by annual subscription from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH. Copies of specific issues (including back issues) can be ordered by post (payable in advance) from the Library at the Business Statistics Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG (tel. 0633 56111, ext. 2973; telex 497121/497122 – Answer back BSO Newport), from which a complete list of the titles of Business Monitors is available on application. Back issues of the monthly and quarterly Monitors cost 30p a copy post free. The annual Monitors are individually priced and the cost of these will be supplied on request. Exceptionally, copies can also be purchased over the counter at the Department's Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU.

The Annual Census of Production Reports (the PA series of Monitors), and the 1971 Census of Distribution Reports (which are being published as Monitors SD 10 to SD 23, though not all are yet available) can be obtained on standing order from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, or can be purchased separately from the Government bookshops or through booksellers.

Have you a good export picture?

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news.

Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Index to statistics and organisational information published regularly in 'Trade and Industry'

A = annually M = monthly Q = quarterly 6M = every six months.

Title	Last published
Air transport: trade by air (6M)	28 Nov. 1975
Balance of payments:	
current account (M)	21 May 1976
trends in invisible transactions	16 Apr. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Bankruptcies *see* Insolvencies	
Business names and limited partnerships (A)	30 Jan. 1975
Capital expenditure: manufacturing, distributive and service industries (Q)	2 Apr. 1976
By regions	28 May 1976
Catering trades turnover (M)	21 May 1976
Census of production (A)	2 Apr. 1976
Chemicals industry activity (Q)	2 Apr. 1976
Companies:	
acquisitions and mergers (Q)	14 May 1976
Liquidations *see* Insolvencies	
liquidity (Q)	12 Mar. 1976
new registrations:	
Gt. Britain (M)	This week
N. Ireland (M)	21 May 1976
rate of return on capital	24 Oct. 1975
Construction work overseas (A)	17 Oct. 1975
EEC economic indicators	This week
Energy trends (M)	This week
Engineering industries: sales and orders (M)	28 May 1976
Film industry	
British Film Fund Agency returns (M)	This week
cinema admissions and takings (M)	21 May 1976
overseas payments and earnings (A)	8 Aug. 1975
registrations of films (A)	30 Jan. 1976
Food:	
consumption levels (6M)	10 Oct. 1975
household consumption (Q)	12 Mar. 1976
Footwear industry: production, orders and deliveries (M)	7 May 1976
Foreign exchange: official reserves (M)	14 May. 1976
Foreign trade: industrial countries' production and trade (Q)	9 Jan. 1976
(*see also* Overseas trade of the UK)	
Hire-purchase business (M)	14 May 1976
Industrial production:	
index numbers (M)	28 May 1976
N. Ireland index	21 Nov. 1975
Wales	16 Apr. 1976
Insolvencies (Q)	7 May 1976
Insurance companies: investments and assets (A)	22 Aug. 1975
Investment:	
book values of overseas direct investments (every 3 years)	15 Nov. 1973
industry's investment intentions (3 times a year)	9 Jan. 1976
investment and earnings overseas (A)	14 Mar. 1975
(amendment)	21 Mar. 1975
Man-made fibres:	
deliveries (Q)	21 May 1976
production (M)	21 May 1976
production: quarterly analysis (Q)	21 May 1976
Metal working machine tools: sales and orders (M)	21 May 1976
Motor industry:	
car and commercial vehicle production (M)	30 Apr. 1976
estimated figures (M)	14 May 1976
motor trade turnover (Q)	21 May 1976
Office development permits (Q)	12 Mar. 1976
Overseas trade of the UK:	
direct exporters and credit terms (A)	11 Apr. 1975
analysis of trends (Q)	12 Mar. 1976
ten-year back run (A)	12 Mar. 1976
(*see also* Balance of payments)	
Pension funds: investments and assets (A)	22 Aug. 1975
Regional development grants (Q)	7 May 1976
Regional selective assistance monthly summary (M)	This week
Regional selective assistance: offers £10,000 or more (Q)	14 May 1976
Retail prices index (M)	23 Apr. 1976
Retail trades:	
sales (M)	14 May 1976
provisional figures (M)	21 May 1976
sales, N. Ireland (M)	28 May 1976
stocks (M)	21 May 1976
Royalties: overseas transactions (A)	11 Apr. 1975
Shipping: nationality of vessels in UK sea-borne trade (A)	23 Jan. 1975
Steel consumption and stocks (Q)	26 Mar. 1976
Stocks:	
manufacturers' and distributors' quarterly figures (Q)	2 Apr. 1976
manufacturers' stocks: monthly estimates (M)	30 Apr. 1976
retail (M)	16 Apr. 1976
Television: overseas payments and earnings (A)	8 Aug. 1975
Textiles:	
activity in the industry (Q)	23 Apr. 1976
carpet sales (M)	20 Feb. 1976
cotton industry production (M)	28 May 1976
hosiery production (M)	21 May 1976
made-up clothing: orders and deliveries (M)	28 May 1976
wholesale houses' sales (M)	16 Apr. 1976
wool exports (Q)	28 May 1976
wool output (M)	28 May 1976
Tourism:	
foreign visitor arrivals (M)	19 Mar. 1976
overseas travel and tourism (Q)	9 Apr. 1976
Wholesale prices:	
average prices of selected commodities (A)	9 Apr. 1976
index numbers (M)	21 May 1976

Departmental organisations, etc.

Subjects	Last published
British commercial representations overseas	16 Apr. 1976
Customs notices of interest to exporters	This week
ECGD local offices	This week
Guide to Departments	19 Mar. 1976
Official Receivers' offices	This week
Programme of trade promotions	30 Apr. 1976
Release dates of economic statistics	28 May 1976

Addresses of ECGD offices

The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) is a Government Department providing export credit insurance for United Kingdom exporters and insurance against political risks for new investments overseas. Although credit insurance is its main service to exporters the Department offers them a number of others. Firstly the Bank Guarantee scheme, enables exporters who are eligible to obtain export finance from their bank at a special low rate. Major projects carried out by British firms in overseas countries can be financed by the buyer credit technique which gives the exporter the bulk of his payment on shipment of the goods. Similar to this is the line of credit facility which extends the buyer credit principle to include contracts often with an individual value as low as £10,000. ECGD now insures 35 per cent of all UK exports. For full details of all ECGD services contact Publicity Branch, ECGD, Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL, telephone 01-606 6699 extension 258, telex 883601, or get in touch with one of the offices listed below.

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F. Wilmot, Colmore Centre, 115 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3SB. Tel. 021-233 1771. Telex 33132

Bristol

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R. A. Bounds, Robinson Building, 1 Redcliffe Street, Bristol BS1 6NP. Tel. 0272 299971. Telex 44248.

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In the United States of America exporters can obtain assistance from the Department's resident Representative for the USA and Canada.

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Offers should be addressed to the Department of Trade, Room 43, at the above address in envelopes clearly marked 'Offer to Purchase "Isolda" ' and must be received by noon on 20 July 1976.

This information is given for guidance only and any prospective purchaser must satisfy himself regarding actual details of the vessel and her present condition.

Ministry of Defence

9 June 1976 Furniture

Location: The King's Head Hotel, Market Square, Richmond, Yorks

Auctioneers: Bartle and Son (Dept. L), 52 Merrion Street, Leeds LS2 8JH (tel. 0532-450898)

A small sale of approximately 350 lots of household furniture and effects which will be sold as single items or in small quantities.

Sales by Auction

16 and 17 June 1976 Vehicles and Miscellaneous stores

Location: The Hilltop Motor Hotel, London Road, Carlisle

Auctioneers: Harrison & Hetherington Ltd. (Dept. L), Borderway Mart, Rosehill, Carlisle CA1 2RS (tel. 0228 26292)

Surplus plant and stores comprising 147 vehicles including Morris, BMC, Austin and Ford saloons, Morris ambulances, Austin, Commer, Ford and BMC vans, Landrovers, Commer coach and mini bus, Scammel trailers and Mechanical Horse tractors, fork lift trucks, Austin chassis cabs etc. Machine and hand tools including milling, grinding, bending, sanding and banding machines, guillotines, tinsmith machines, machine vices, carpenter vices, grinding wheels, spanners, pliers, files, hammers, planes and chisels. Generators, transformers, test meters, power units, voltmeters, wavemeters, multimeters, junction boxes, leak locators, portable heaters, capacitors, wattmeters, connectors, switches, resistors, rotary converters and electronic valves. Stop and pocket watches, aircraft clocks, National time clocks, cameras, micrometers, binoculars, gauges, oscilloscopes. Wooden buildings, webbing items, service clothing, photographic items, telephone equipment, furniture, carpets, aircraft panels, MT tyres, carboys, crockery, kitchen utensils, aluminium bar and tubes, aircraft wheels, perspex sheets, paints and many other items.

23 June 1976 Miscellaneous stores

Location: The Bristol Esso Hotel, Filton Road, Hambrook, Bristol

Auctioneers: Russell Baldwin & Bright (Dept. L), 19/21 King Street, Hereford (tel. 0432 55441)

Stores, lying at various locations, including Landrovers, saloon cars, vans and lorries; machine tools; hydraulic jacks, generators and other general stores; radio receivers and spares; aircraft, electrical and MT spares; watches; furniture; crockery and cutlery; footwear, clothing and textiles; and many other miscellaneous items.

Catalogues for the above sales which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times etc., are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 20p postage and packing 10p extra (postal orders only).

Industrial publicity

Publicity for British exporters can often be obtained through use of the facilities of the Central Office of Information, who are concerned with collecting from industry items suitable for dissemination overseas by way of Government information services. The COI are interested in news items, feature article material, photographs, tape recordings for radio, and films for television and other screening. Contact should be made with the nearest Regional Office covering your area.

Northern: Mr H. G. Roberts, Andrews House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4TB (Tel: 27575 – Telex 53277).

Yorkshire & Humberside: Mr T. Cooban, City House, Leeds LS1 4JG (Tel: 38232 – Telex Econ Plan 55472 – message to be prefixed for COI).

East Midland: Mr P. T. Brazier, Cranbrook House, Cranbrook Street, Nottingham NG1 1EW (Tel: 46121 – Telex 37572).

Eastern: Mr A. A. McLoughlin, 72-80 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1LL (Tel: 58911 – Telex 81187).

London & South Eastern*: Mr R. Dean, OBE, St. Christopher House Annexe, Sumner Street, London, SE1 (Tel: 01-928 2371 – Telex 918881 message to be prefixed for London Region).

Southern: Mr A. S. Poole, Market Place House, Reading RG1 2EH (Tel: 581261 – Telex 848216).

South Western: Mr W. J. D. Irving, MVO, The Pithay, Bristol BS1 2NF (Tel: 291071 – Telex 44203).

Midland: Mr D. C. Boyd, Five Ways House, Islington Row, Birmingham B15 1SH (Tel: 021-643 8191 – Telex 33376).

North Western: Mr H. V. Tillotson, MVO, 22nd floor, Sunley Building, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BD (Tel: 061-832 9111 – Telex 667830).

Scottish Office: Mr C. MacGregor, MBE, Scottish Information Office, New St. Andrew's House, St. James Centre, Edinburgh EH1 3TD (Tel: 031-556 8400).

Ulster Office: Northern Ireland Information Service, Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST (Tel: 63011).

Welsh Office: Mr Brian Evans, Director, Welsh Office Information Division, Oxford House, Hills Street, Cardiff CF1 2XG (Tel: 44171 – Telex 49327).

* National companies in central London, and particularly those with UK subsidiaries or branches, which require overseas publicity should consult Industrial Section at COI Headquarters: Mr E. Turnbull, Central Office of Information, Hercules Road, London SE1 7DU (Tel: 01-928 2345 ext. 271 – Telex 915444).

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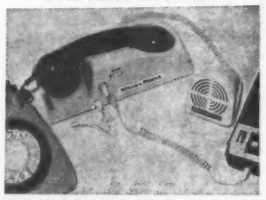

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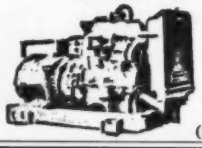

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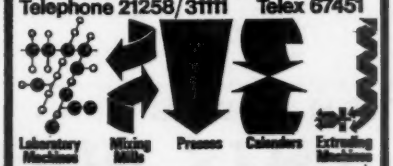

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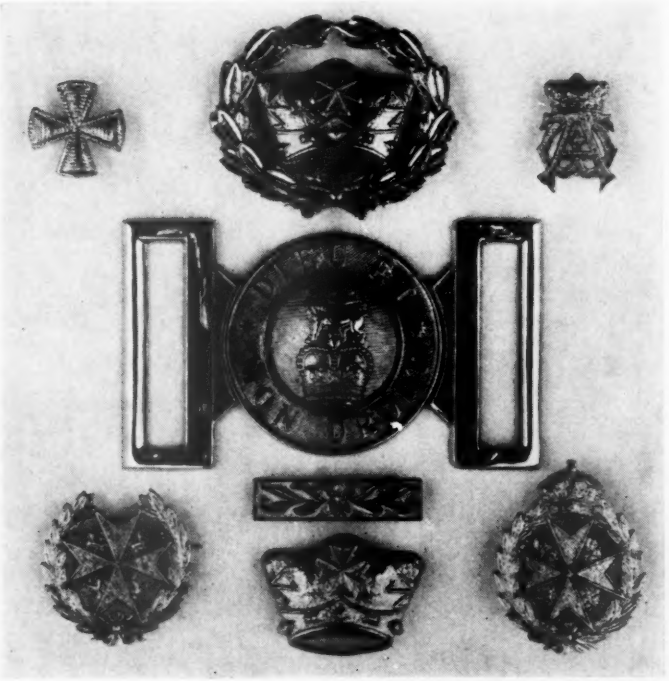

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ISBN 0 11 724577 1